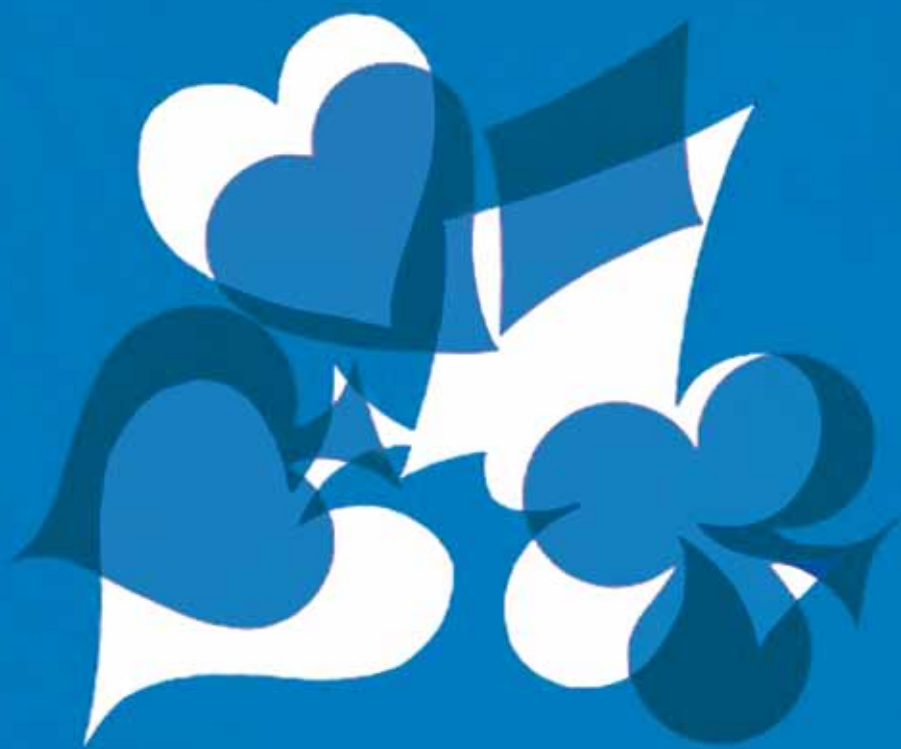


WINNING BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

# TEXAS TRANSFER

Patty Tucker



An Honors eBooklet from Master Point Press

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## Introduction

There are several different conventions that you can play in response to a one notrump opening bid or overcall. Conventions that will allow you to show:

- Weaker hands;
- Stronger high card point hands;
- More distributional hands;
- Hands with a four-card major;
- Hands with a five-card or longer major; and
- Hands with a six-card or longer minor.

There are tools that allow you to force the notrump opening bidder to become declarer, thus allowing responder to more fully describe their hand and conceal the stronger hand. They allow the opening lead to be made by the opening notrump bidder's left-hand opponent, in and of itself, a valuable advantage.

Some of those conventions and tools are discussed fully in this book. As you might expect, they are the conventions and tools I have found most useful.

***Always remember that every time you add a convention you expect to lose some other bid AND that the additional conventions that you choose to adopt influence the rules of other conventions.*** You might ask, "Why would I do that? Why should I lose a

natural bid, to add an artificial bid?” The answer is simple...because it is valuable. As you work your way through this book you will find that the rules of the simplest and most common conventions – Stayman and Jacoby Transfers – will be adjusted as you add other conventions.

For example:

If you choose to adopt Smolen, then responder’s rebid after the initial Stayman bid, when he holds a five-card and a four-card major suit changes; or

If you choose to adopt Texas Transfers, then responder’s rebid after the initial Jacoby Transfer shows a different strength of hand; or

If you choose to adopt Four-Suit Transfers, then responder’s rebid after the initial Stayman bid will change on one specific type of hand.

As you add conventions to your toolbox, you and partner will need to decide which “tools” work best for you. What bids you are both willing to “lose” in order to better describe your hand when you decide to adopt different conventions.

I’ve included the conventions that I believe are worth the extra effort to learn and are worth the few bids that are lost.



# **Texas Transfer**

## Texas Transfer

A Texas Transfer is a method to transfer to a major suit at the four-level. It originated independently in the U.S. by David Carter and in Sweden by Olle Willner. It is used in response to any natural notrump opening bid, notrump overcall and over a notrump re-bid by a 2♣ opener. Responder must always have a six-card or longer major suit. It is used in three situations:

- With a hand that has a six-card or longer major and would like to play game, but is not interested in slam;
- With a hand that has a four-card major and a six-card or longer major; and
- With a slammish hand that has a six-card or longer major when you plan to bid Blackwood (*or Key Card Blackwood*) asking for aces at your next turn to bid.

Texas Transfers can be used in competition as long as a jump is available.

The mechanics are exactly the same as a Jacoby Transfer, just at a higher level. After a 1NT or 2NT opening bid (or a 1NT overcall):

- A jump to 4♦ says bid 4♥; and
- A jump to 4♥ says bid 4♠.

Some examples:

<u>Hand 1</u>		<u>Hand 2</u>	
North	South	North	South
1NT	4♦	1NT	4♥
4♥		4♠	

**Hand 1** – This immediate transfer to game in hearts would show a minimum hand for game (*approximately 10-13 points*) with six or more hearts. *Responder does not have a hand strong enough to consider slam.*

**Hand 2** – This immediate transfer to game in spades would show a minimum hand for game (*approximately 10-13 points*) with six or more spades. *Responder does not have a hand strong enough to consider slam.*

The mechanics when you have a six-card major and a four-card major are also jumps to the four level, the only difference is that a bid of Stayman (2♣) would have been responder's first bid and opener would have denied a four-card major by bidding 2♦. Some examples:

Hand 3		Hand 4	
North	South	North	South
1NT	2♣	1NT	2♣
2♦	4♦	2♦	4♥
4♥		4♠	

**Hand 3** – Bidding Stayman and then transferring to game in hearts after opener’s denial of a four-card major would show a minimum hand for game with six or more hearts (by implication responder must also have a four-card spade suit since, otherwise, he would have had no reason to bid Stayman). *Responder does not have a hand strong enough to consider slam.*

**Hand 4** – Bidding Stayman and then transferring to game in spades after opener’s denial of a four-card major would show a minimum hand for game with six or more spades (by implication responder must also have a four-card heart suit since, otherwise, he would have had no reason to bid Stayman). *Responder does not have a hand strong enough to consider slam.*

With a six-card or longer major and interest in bidding slam responder has two options available.

- Showing a mild interest in slam.
- Showing a serious interest in slam and asking for Aces (or controls if you play Key Card Blackwood).

<u>Hand 5</u>		<u>Hand 6</u>	
North	South	North	South
1NT	2♦	1NT	2♥
2♥	4♥	2♠	4♠

**Hand 5** – This slow auction to game in hearts (making a Jacoby Transfer and then bidding game in hearts) would show a mild slam try with six or more hearts. Responder’s hand would look like this:

♠KJ2 ♥AQ10985 ♦85 ♣K2

Six hearts, 13 points with primary (Aces and Kings) cards. If opener has a good fit for hearts and primary cards, responder would be interested in slam.

**Hand 6** – This slow auction to game in spades (making a Jacoby Transfer and then bidding game in

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## Texas Transfer

Bridge students quickly discover that ‘basic’ bidding’ will only get them so far. If they really want to improve, it is necessary to master a certain number of bidding conventions, and be prepared both to play them and play against them. This ebooklet covers the Texas Transfer convention.



**PATTY TUCKER** (Dunwoody, Georgia) is an ABTA Master Bridge Teacher and cofounder of Whirlwind Bridge and Atlanta Junior Bridge. Her success at the bridge table culminated in her victory in the 2000 Baldwin Flight A North American Open Pairs with long-time bridge partner Kevin Collins. Patty and Kevin were married in 2006.