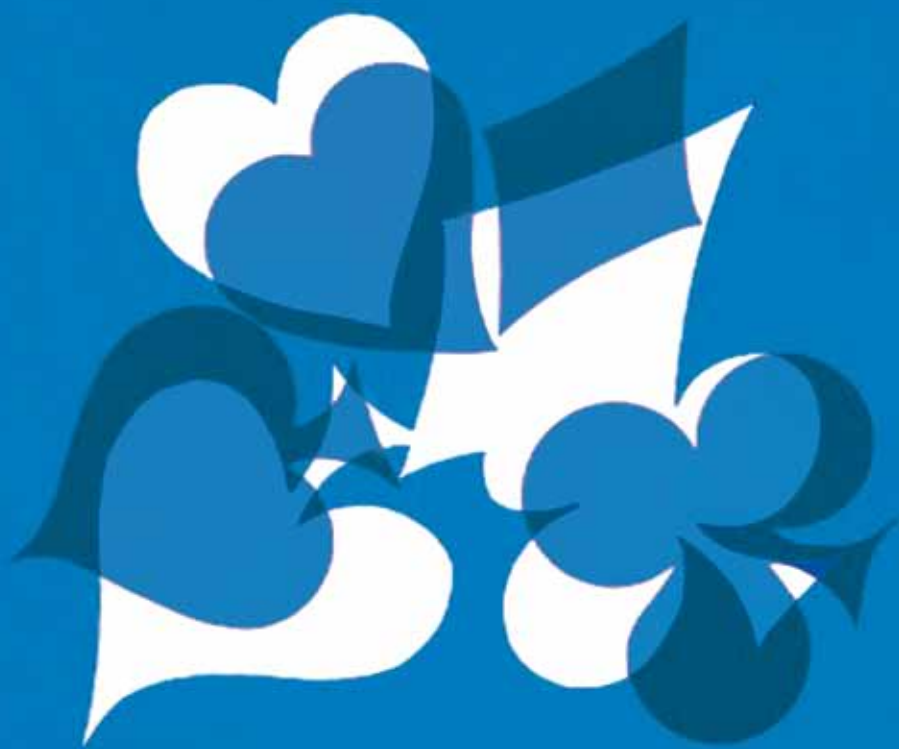


WINNING BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

FOUR-SUIT TRANSFERS

Patty Tucker



An Honors eBooklet from Master Point Press

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eBooklets on Conventions After a Notrump Opening

Stayman

Jacoby Transfers

Texas Transfer

Smolen

Four-Suit Transfers

Three-level Responses to a 1NT Opening Bid

Three Spades over 2NT

Lebensohl

These booklets may be purchased as a single volume in digital or paper format under the title *Competitive Bidding*, one of eight books in Patty Tucker's Winning Bridge Conventions Series.

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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.

Four-Suit Transfers

Four-Suit Transfers

Four-Suit Transfers is a convention that allows you to transfer to a six-card or longer minor suit after your partner has opened or overcalled one Notrump. It cannot be used after an opponent has overcalled a suit, but can be used if an opponent has doubled the NT opening bid. Four-Suit Transfers can also be played after an artificial (conventional) $2\clubsuit$ overcall by an opponent.

The mechanics are that after a 1NT opening bid, a bid of:

- $2\spadesuit$ by responder tells opener to bid clubs; or
- 2NT by responder tells opener to bid diamonds.

Responder could have a weak, invitational or slammish hand. Let's look at some examples.

To bid $2\spadesuit$ you might have:

$\spadesuit 763 \heartsuit 85 \diamond 62 \clubsuit Q98643$ – the weak hand. We just want to get out of NT. Opener will take many more tricks with clubs as trumps.

$\spadesuit 763 \heartsuit 85 \diamond 62 \clubsuit AQJ643$ – the invitational hand. If opener has a fit in clubs or the King of clubs,

responder's hand will give him six tricks. That's a great start to the nine tricks we would need to make 3NT. With a fit, we want to try game.

♠7 ♥A75 ♦K2 ♣AQ98643 – the slammish hand. If opener has a fit in clubs or the King of clubs, responder can envision a hand that will make slam (in either clubs or NT). With no fit, responder's hand is not nearly as valuable.

To bid 2NT you might have:

♠763 ♥85 ♦J98542 ♣32 – the weak hand. We just want to get out of NT. Opener will take many more tricks with diamonds as trumps.

♠73 ♥85 ♦KQJ7542 ♣43 – the invitational hand. If opener has a fit in diamonds or the Ace of diamonds, responder's hand will give him six or seven tricks. That's a great start to the nine tricks we would need to make 3NT. With a fit, we want to try to make game.

♠7 ♥A5 ♦KQ98652 ♣KQ3 – the slammish hand. If opener has a fit in diamonds or the Ace of diamonds, responder can envision a hand that will make slam (in either diamonds or NT). With no fit, responder's hand is not nearly as valuable.

Opener does not know which hand it is...just that responder has this long minor suit. Opener will tell partner whether he “likes” that suit or not. Opener does this by either accepting the transfer or by bidding the *bid in-between responder’s bid and responder’s actual suit*.

Examples:

<u>Hand 1</u>		<u>Hand 2</u>	
North	South	North	South
1NT	2♠	1NT	2♠
3♣		2NT	

Hand 1 – 3♣ clubs is the suit that South showed when he bid the transfer. North simply accepted the transfer. North does not have the Ace or the King or the Queen or as many as three cards in the club suit.

Hand 2 – 2NT is the bid in-between the bid South made to transfer and the suit he actually has. By making this bid, North has said to South I have either length (3+ cards) in your club suit or I have a high honor (Ace, King or Queen).

	Responder's Second Bid After an Initial Bid of 2♠ Transferring to Clubs	
Responder Held	Opener Bid 2NT (Liking Clubs)	Opener Bid 3♣ (Disliking Clubs)
Weak Hand	Bid 3♣	Pass
Invitational Hand	Bid 3NT	Pass
Slammish Hand	Try for Slam	Bid 3NT or 4NT

Hand 3

North South

1NT 2NT

3♦

Hand 4

North South

1NT 2NT

3♣

Hand 3 – 3♦ diamonds is the suit that South showed when he bid the transfer. North simply accepted the transfer. North does not have the Ace or the King or the Queen or as many as three cards in the diamond suit.

Hand 4 – 3♣ is the bid in-between the bid South made to transfer and the suit he actually has. By making

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Four-Suit Transfers

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 Four-Suit Transfers 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.