

The Purpose of an Auction: Find the Fit, Do the Math, Bid the Contract!

Which strain? ♣ ♦ ♥ ♠ NT

How high? 1,2,3,4,5,6,7

When one of us opens NT, we have limited our hand. (Even 2NT openers are limited!) Anyone who limits their hand is never in charge of the auction. Responder's job is to find the best contract for the combined holding of the partnership.

How it works

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	?	

Responder's first bid in a Transfer auction describes the shape, and their second bid then tells the points.

2♦: I have at least 5 hearts, partner. Please bid 2♥ and then I will tell you more.
2♥: I have at least 5 spades, so please bid 2♠ and then I will tell you more.

A rebid of some amount of NT shows how many points are in Responder's hand:

- A transfer followed by a pass shows 0-7 points in responder's hand (closeout).
- A transfer followed by 2NT shows 8-9 points in responder's hand (invitational).
- A transfer followed by 3NT shows 10-14 responder points (closeout).
- A transfer followed by 4NT **IS NOT BLACKWOOD!** It is Quantitative, and it shows 15-19 points in responder's hand! It is invitational to slam with 17 opener points.

Opener will decide 2 things:

- 1 - Which Strain -- do we have a fit? Should I rebid our suit or stay in NT?
- 2 - How High -- adding our points together, do we have a partscore, or a game, or could we have a slam?

No Buts

“But what if I only have 2 in partner’s major?”

“But what if I have 4 in the other major?”

“But what if I have 15 points?”

“But what if I have 17 points?”

THESE QUESTIONS DO NOT MATTER!

ALWAYS accept the transfer and **BID THE MAJOR** that partner has. PARTNER IS IN CHARGE. This is NOT NEGOTIABLE.

“But what if I mis-sorted my hand and messed up my 1NT bid?”

PLAN ON BUYING LUNCH 😊

Other Rebids after the transfer

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
2♠	Pass	?	

- 0-7 HCP: PASS (closeout)
- 8-9 HCP and 5 spades: Bid 2NT (invitational).
- 8-9 HCP and 6+ spades: Bid 3♠ (invitational) *
- 10-15 HCP and 5 spades: Bid 3NT (closeout)
- 10-15 HCP and 6+ spades: Bid 4♠ *
- Bid any other suit: Natural and **FORCING** to game.

* When you know there is a fit, because you have 6 pieces and partner's NT opener promises at least 2 pieces, then it's okay to rebid your points using the suit instead of using some number of NT.

Common Mistakes

- Responder invites with a game-going hand. *Opener could pass!!*
- 1NT opener doesn't accept the transfer. *What if responder has 6 of the crummiest spades and not a point in their hand?*
- Responder raises the major with only 5 trumps. *You told your story, don't rebid them without extra length.*
- 1NT opener leaves the contract in NT when they have a major suit fit. *If responder has an oddly-shaped hand, the major will be better. It's not your call, it's responder's call.*
- Using a Jacoby Transfer with 8+ HCP and 5-4 in the majors. *Bid Stayman first, asking for the 4. If you hear 2♦, then you can discuss the 5. 😊*