

# Transfers after Transfers

[Pete Matthews Jr](https://3nt.xyz) – <https://3nt.xyz> – © September 13, 2024

Over partner's 1 NT opening bid, we bid Stayman and follow with 2 ♠ to invite game with 5 or more spades. This plan effectively makes 2 NT obsolete as an invitation, in this auction:

1 NT – 2 ♥; 2 ♠ – ?

Do experts repurpose that?

Gavin Wolpert replied, “Most experts are shifting to transfers after transfers.” This chart is an augmented summary of the plan he provided:

R2	1 NT – 2 ♦; 2 ♥ – ?	1 NT – 2 ♥; 2 ♠ – ?
2 ♠	All heart invitations.	–
2 NT	Secondary clubs, GF, often slam aspirations.	
3 ♣	Secondary diamonds, GF, often slam aspirations.	
3 ♦	Six hearts – hand type 1.	5-5 majors.
3 ♥	Six hearts – hand type 2.	Six spades – hand type 1.
3 ♠	Auto-splinter (singleton ♠)	Six spades – hand type 2.
3 NT	Game only, pass or correct.	
4 ♣	Auto-splinter (singleton ♣)	
4 ♦	Auto-splinter (singleton ♦)	
4 ♥	–	Auto-splinter (singleton ♥)

**6-Card major.** Wolpert says different people play different hand types [1 & 2], which he did not describe, for the 6-card major bids.

*Proposed type 1 – unspecified void.* Opener bids the next step, and responder shows the void in LMH steps. Opener ignores the ace of the void suit, if responder bids RKB.

*Proposed type 2 – general slam try (no shortness).* 3 NT is RKB. If 3 NT is bypassed, the usual bid is still RKB.

**5-5 majors.** If you have been paying careful attention, you'll see that the sequence for “all heart invitations” clobbers our sequence for an invitation with 5-5 majors. Wolpert says, with this hand, “just Stayman followed by 2 ♠. If partner bids 2 NT to accept you can retreat to 3 ♥. It backfires when opener is 2-3 and has a minimum

which in reality will happen to you once every couple of years and if you are playing IMPs you can weather the storm.” ♦<sup>1</sup>

Playing this way, we don’t need a special system over the 5-5 majors sequence at 3 ♦. It remains forcing to game, but is an important step lower than 3 ♥: opener picks a major, which sets trump in an 8+ card fit at the three level, so serious 3 NT applies! 3 NT starts serious cue-bidding, a courtesy cue is a mild slam try, or responder bids game without slam interest.

### **Opener’s suggested priorities, after a second transfer to a minor:**

1. 3 M shows 3- or 4-card support, and sets trump. Serious 3 NT applies (responder has an unbalanced hand).
2. 3 NT shows both side suits are well-stopped.
3. A new suit shows this suit is well-stopped, highlights the other. The other major is always available for such a bid, and 3 ♦ is available over a transfer to clubs.
4. 3 ♣ over a transfer to clubs shows 4+ clubs.
5. 3 ♦ over a transfer to diamonds is ambiguous. Opener cannot bid clubs below 3 NT, so responder assumes opener has that suit well-stopped, highlighting the other major. Whatever the quality of support, 4 ♣ is nailed down as RKB ♦ (crosswood).
6. 4 ♦ over a transfer to diamonds sets diamonds trump, and 4 oM becomes RKB over that.

This plan is not perfect, but having the extra bid makes it way better than natural bids after transfers.

## **Backstory**

This framework came to me via updates in 2023 by Gavin Wolpert to his “4-Way Transfers with Range Ask” article on Bridge Winners. Except as noted, everything here is mine (including the shaded parts of the chart), fleshing out Wolpert’s tool. Transfers after transfers will slot right into the 1 NT system of *EZ-Expert Bidding Tools*. While I play that system all the time, I have yet to play transfers after transfers.

The best way to start down this path is to first assure responder uses Stayman and then 2 ♠, to handle all spade invitations. With transfers after transfers, responder is either weak or game-forcing – never invitational – for a transfer to spades.