



Presents:

Jacoby Transfers

When we open **1 No – Trump** we almost always have the best hand in our partnership. Because of this fact, we should try our best to **keep our hand concealed**. *Think about this for a second.... If the 1 No – Trump opener's hand is the dummy, our opponents will have much better information during the play of the hand because the strongest hand will be seen by both opponents. All of those 15 – 17 points will be face up for the defenders to see, which will make it easier for them to make good decisions.* Luckily the **Jacoby Transfer** convention was invented to make sure that the 1 No – Trump opener is the declarer in almost every situation. Let's take a look at a hand:



After our partner opens 1NT our best contract may be in Spades. The problem is; if we bid Spades first and play in that suit our hand will be hidden and our partner's big hand will be face up as the dummy.

Not the best strategy.

To avoid this we can use **The Jacoby Transfer** bid. Here's how it works:

- Whenever we have **5+ cards in a Major** suit and are responding to a No-Trump bid we should **bid the suit directly below our Major suit**.
- This is what's called a **transfer bid**:
 - This forces partner to bid our suit for us and ensures that **if** we end up playing in that suit our partner's hand remains concealed because they bid the suit first!

Here's what a transfer will look like:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubap
			1NT
Pass	2♥	Pass	2♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	
2H is a TRANSFER to 2S			

RESPONSES TO 1 NO – TRUMP WITH 5 OR MORE IN A MAJOR SUIT

HEARTS

We will always start with 2 Diamonds which will force partner to bid 2 Hearts.
(This is the Transfer)

EXACTLY 5 HEARTS

0 – 7 points	Transfer then pass
8 – 9 points	Transfer then bid 2NT
10 – 14 points	Transfer then bid 3NT

6 OR MORE HEARTS

0 – 7 points	Transfer then pass
8 – 9 points	Transfer then bid 3H
10 – 14 points	Transfer then bid 4H

SPADES

We will always start with 2 Hearts which will force partner to bid 2 Spades.
(This is the Transfer)

EXACTLY 5 SPADES

0 – 7 points	Transfer then pass
8 – 9 points	Transfer then bid 2NT
10 – 14 points	Transfer then bid 3NT

6 OR MORE SPADES

0 – 7 points	Transfer then pass
8 – 9 points	Transfer then bid 3S
10 – 14 points	Transfer then bid 4S

LearnBridge.nyc reminds you that:

- The Transfer can **only be used in No – Trump auctions**
 - Our side must have opened or overcalled with a No – Trump bid
- We **MUST have at least 5 cards** in the Major we are transferring into!
- The Transfer, for now, will **only** be available for **MAJOR SUITS**
- The opener **MUST** accept the transfer!
 - When the auction starts INT → 2 Hearts; The INT bidder is **forced to bid 2 Spades**. No exceptions to this... yet 😊
- The Jacoby Transfer is what's called an “Announceable Bid”
 - So when you open INT and your partner bids 2 Diamonds you (the INT opener) just need to say “Transfer”
 - This is so the opponents know that our partner's bid of 2 Diamonds does not have anything to do with the Diamond suit.

A Common Question regarding the Jacoby Transfer:

“How will my partner know that I am using a Transfer bid and not just bidding 2 Diamonds?”

The answer is simple. Before you play a game with a new partner you will ask each other if you play transfers. If you both agree that you do, then anytime these bids pop up we will both know that they are transfers. This is what's called a **partnership agreement**.



Did you bid 4 Hearts?

Remember those conclusions we came to on the previous slide; We have enough for game and we have a fit. Who knows both of those things? **WE DO!**

So it is up to us to place the contract for our side. That contract in this hand is 4 Hearts.

Note: When we open INT we have described our hand so well already that it is our partner who has the most information. She is now in control of where we end up. So remember, whenever you open INT;

PARTNER IS THE CAPTAIN.

The image shows a bridge hand interface with the following details:

- Bidding Board:** Board 5
- Robot (North):** A♥ Q♥ 8♥ 3♥ A♠ J♠ 3♠ A♦ 5♦ 3♦ 2♦ 10♣ 5♣
- West (Robot):** 9♥ 7♥ 2♥ Q♠ 8♠ 5♠ J♦ 9♦ 7♦ 6♦ K♣ 7♣ 6♣ 9♦
- East (Robot):** 10♠ 9♠ 7♠ 2♠ K♥ Q♥ 10♥ 4♥ Q♣ J♣ 9♣ 8♣ 3♣
- scubapro (South):** K♥ J♥ 10♥ 6♥ 5♥ 4♥ K♠ 6♠ 4♠ 8♦ A♣ 4♣ 2♣

Bidding Log:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubapro
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	4♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Score: 4♥ N NS 0 EW 0

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubapro
	1NT	Pass	2♦
Pass	2♥	Pass	

HAND 1

robot

E E

Q 8 7 K 10 9 6 3 A J 4 7 6

♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦

S ♠ scubapro 7

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubapro
	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	

HAND 2

robot

E E

10 6 5 4 2 6 3 A 5 Q J 9 3

♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

S ♠ scubapro 7

MAKE THE NEXT BID IN EACH OF THESE TWO HANDS

D Bidding Board 5

WEST NORTH EAST scubap

Pass 1NT Pass 2♥ Pass 3NT
 Pass 4♥ Pass Pass
 Pass

N Robot Remove

HAND 1

W West Robot

E East Robot

S scubapro 7 4♥ N NS 0 EW 0

After partner bids 2H our questions should be:

1. Do we have Game?
 1. The answer to this is Yes because our side has at least 25 points
2. Do we have a fit?
 1. We don't know yet. Remember partner's 2 Heart bid was forced so she may still only have 2 cards in the heart suit. (we know this because of the 1NT opening bid.)

So our best bid is 3NT. This bid says "We have game and I have **exactly 5 Hearts**" Now it is up to our partner;

With 2 Hearts she will pass 3NT (no fit)

With 3+ Hearts she will bid 4 Hearts. (fit)

D Bidding Board 13

WEST NORTH EAST scubap

Pass 1NT Pass 2♥ Pass
 Pass 2♠ Pass Pass
 Pass

N Robot Remove

HAND 2

W West Robot

E East Robot

S scubapro 7 2♠ N NS 0 EW 0

After partner bids 2S we have the same questions as hand one:

1. Do we have game?
 1. NO

STOP

LearnBridge.nyc Rule: Whenever we have a weak hand (0 – 7 total points) and 5+ cards in a Major suit we **ALWAYS** transfer and then pass.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubapro
Pass	2♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	2♥

Robot

S scubapro 7

K♠ 8♠ 7♠ 6♠ Q♥ 10♥ 3♥ A♣ Q♣ J♣ 6♣ K♦ Q♦

Let's take a look at this from the other side of the table:

We have opened 1NT and our partner has transferred us to Hearts and then bid 3NT.

What has our partner shown us so far?

1. She has at least 10 points
 1. She bid 3NT which is game
 1. She must know that our side has at least 25 points to do this
2. She has **EXACTLY 5 Hearts**
 1. We know this because of the transfer bid
 1. Remember: We must have at least 5 cards in the Major we are transferring into
 2. If she had 6 Hearts she would have bid 4♥ instead of 3NT

So What would you bid now with the Scubapro's hand?

Did you bid 4 Hearts?

When we know we have a Major suit fit we should always play in that Major if given the choice.

Rule: When partner transfers and then bids 3 No-Trump we should:

- **Pass with 2 cards in the suit**
- **Bid the Major with 3+ cards in the suit.**

Notice that if we play this hand in 3NT we are in trouble if the opponents lead Diamonds. Whereas in 4H we only have 1 Diamond loser.

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding board for Board 19. The bidding sequence is: West (Robot) passes, North (scubapro) bids 2♦, West passes, North bids 3NT, and East (Robot) passes. The hands are:

- North (scubapro):** ♠ K 7 6 5 4, ♥ A J 10 6 5, ♦ K 5 4, ♣
- West (Robot):** ♠ J 2, ♥ Q 9 5 3, ♦ A 10 9 7 3, ♣ 9 7
- East (Robot):** ♠ A 9 8, ♥ 4 2, ♦ J 8 4 2, ♣ 10 8 3 2
- South (scubapro):** ♠ Q 10 3, ♥ K 8 7 6, ♦ K Q, ♣ A Q J 6

The bidding board also shows a 'Remove' button and a score table:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubapro
Pass	2♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	Pass	2♥
Pass		Pass	4♥
Pass		Pass	

At the bottom right, the score is 4♥ S, NS 0, EW 0.

WEST NORTH EAST scubapro

Pass 2♦ Pass 1NT
 Pass 2♥
 Pass 3NT Pass

Robot

E E

6 5 2 Q 9 A K 5 2 A K 10 6
 ♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

S ♣ scubapro 7

Here we have the same auction as last hand. Now when faced with the decision at 3NT we know it is correct to PASS. We do not have a fit in Hearts so we stay in 3NT.

WEST NORTH EAST scubapro

Pass 2♥ Pass 1NT
 Pass 2♠
 Pass 2NT Pass

Robot

E E

Q J 8 5 A K J K J 10 6 4 3
 ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♣ ♦ ♦

S ♣ scubapro 7

What is partner telling us with these bids?
 What is your next bid?

Did you bid 4 Spades?

Partner is communicating a hand with:

- Exactly 5 Spades
- 8 – 9 points
 - The 2NT bid is an invitational bid which communicates that partner is uncertain if we have enough for game
 - If our hand is 15 points partner knows we don't have enough for game
 - If our hand is a good 16 or 17 partner knows we have enough for game

So now it's our turn. Our hand improved because of our fit in Spades. We can add points for distribution and now know we have enough for game if we are playing in Spades.

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface with the following details:

- North (Robot):** Hand: K♠ 10♠ 9♠ 7♠ 2♠ Q♥ 6♥ 5♣ 2♣ A♦ 10♦ 8♦ 2♦. Bid: 2NT.
- West (Robot):** Hand: 6♠ 10♥ 9♥ 7♥ 5♥ 4♥ 3♥ Q♣ 9♣ 7♣ K♦ J♦ 7♦. Bid: Pass.
- East (Robot):** Hand: A♠ 4♠ 3♠ 8♥ 2♥ A♣ 8♣ 4♣ 3♣ Q♦ 9♦ 6♦ 5♦. Bid: Pass.
- South (scubapro):** Hand: Q♠ J♠ 8♠ 5♠ A♥ K♥ J♥ K♣ J♣ 10♣ 6♣ 4♦ 3♦. Bid: 4♠.

The bidding board shows: WEST (Pass), NORTH (2NT), EAST (Pass). A 'Remove' button is visible next to the North bid.

Reminder: When we find a fit we must reevaluate our hand to include distribution points. On this hand when partner bid 2H we knew we had a fit in Spades. So our hand went from 15 points to about 17 points. (1 point for doubleton and 1 point for the 4th Spade)

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubapro
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	

K♠	Q♠	10♠	8♠	7♠	3♠	10♥	J♣	10♣	K♦	9♦	6♦	4♦	♦
S	scubapro	7											

What is your next bid with this hand?

Did you bid 4 Spades?

Remember, even though this looks like just 9 points on the surface...

WE HAVE A FIT

Don't forget to count your distribution points when you find a fit.

When did we find our fit?

The answer is, as soon as partner opened the bidding 1NT. Partner has a balanced hand and must have at least 2 cards in each suit.

The screenshot shows a bridge bidding interface with the following details:

- North (Robot):** 9♠, 4♠, A♥, Q♥, 8♥, K♣, Q♣, 8♣, 4♣, 2♣, A♦, J♦, 10♦. Points: 9.
- West (Robot):** A♠, 6♠, J♥, 5♥, 4♥, 3♥, 2♥, A♣, 7♣, 5♣, 7♦, 5♦, 3♦. Points: 9.
- East (Robot):** J♠, 5♠, 2♠, K♥, 9♥, 7♥, 6♥, 9♣, 6♣, 3♣, Q♦, 8♦, 2♦. Points: 9.
- South (scubapro):** K♠, Q♠, 10♠, 8♠, 7♠, 3♠, 10♥, J♣, 10♣, K♦, 9♦, 6♦, 4♦. Points: 7.

Bidding Board 9:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	scubapro
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♥
Pass	2♠	Pass	4♠
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Score: 4♠ N, NS 0, EW 0

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