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We hope that this short course has helped to reinforce some bids that you already knew, pointed you in the direction of extra meanings that you could agree with your partner and given you lots of practise with bids that do not crop up frequently.

If you would like clarification on any of these pages email neilaiston5@gmail.com

GIVING A MEANING TO REDUNDANT BIDS

After an opening bid of 1NT by partner: 2♣ is Stayman.

2♦ is a transfer to hearts . 2♥ is a transfer to spades. but what is 2♠ ?

There are a number of ways that you could use the bid. We suggest the following.

2♠ is a question to opener.

2♠ asks opener "Do you have 12 or 13 points ? If so, please rebid 2NT"

"Do you have 14 points ? If so, please rebid 3♣"

There are TWO main types of hand where this is useful. - (and one other that is less frequent.)

1NT - 2♠ when you have a balanced 11 count with no 4 card major.

♠ Q87 ♥ K103 ♦ 964 ♣ AQ95	11 HCPs	
♠ KJ95 ♥ Q3 ♦ AJ3 ♣ K653	14 HCPs	

S	N
1NT	2♠
3♣	3NT

♠ Q87 ♥ K83 ♦ 964 ♣ AQ95	11 HCPs	
♠ K952 ♥ J3 ♦ AJ3 ♣ KJ53	13 HCPs	

N	S
1NT	2♠
2NT	pass

In this first sequence south's rebid shows 14 pts. North adds 14 to his 11, and bids game

In the second sequence south's rebid shows 12/13 pts. North adds 13 to his 11, and passes.

1NT - 2NT when you have a balanced 12 count with no 4 card major.

If 2♠ shows 11 HCPs,
a response of 2NT now shows precisely 12 pts.

It must be said that experienced players do not think that the separation of one point is as relevant as the feel of the hand.
An 11 count with a good five card suit and stuffing (8s, 9s & 10s is worth 12 HCPs) & some 12 counts are poor.

♠ Q87 ♥ KJ3 ♦ 964 ♣ AQ95	12 HCPs	
♠ K1095 ♥ Q3 ♦ AJ3 ♣ K653	13 HCPs	

S	N
1NT	2NT
3NT	

1NT - 2♠ when you hold a VERY weak 6+ card minor suit. (0-4)

♠ 8 ♥ J3 ♦ 964 ♣ J1096432	2 HCPs	
♠ KJ95 ♥ Q32 ♦ AJ3 ♣ K65	14 HCPs	

S	N
1NT	2♠
3♣	pass

♠ J87 ♥ 83 ♦ K87542 ♣ 32	4 HCPs	
♠ K952 ♥ J3 ♦ AJ3 ♣ KJ53	14 HCPs	

S	N
1NT	2♠
2NT	3♦

Obviously with these south hands you do not care whether partner has 12, 13 or 14 points, you simply want to play in a minor part score.

Because 2♣ is Stayman and 2♦ is a transfer to hearts, you cannot make a weakness takeout .

The cheapest part score you can get too is 3♣ or 3♦ and using 2♠ after partner's 1NT is the way to get there.

When you bid 2♠ partner does not know (or need to know) which type of hand you have.

After a 1NT opening, responder is always in control of the subsequent auction.

With 5/6 HCPs, tough it out by passing! IF doubled - transfer (by redoubling).

With 7+ HCPs, tough it out by passing! IF doubled - pass again. You're likely to make it!

GIVING A MEANING TO REDUNDANT BIDS

1NT - 2♠ when you hold a balanced 19/20. e.g.

In standard 'Acol', after a 1NT opening from partner, a 4NT response is QUANTITATIVE NOT Blackwood! It asks opener to bid 6NT if maximum (14 HCPs) or to PASS with a minimum (12/poor 13).
If aces were an issue, then responder could use Gerber 4♣ to ask for aces.

After partner's 1NT opening, the 2♠ enquiry, as an alternative to 1NT - 4NT keeps the bidding at a more manageable level and gives you the added bonus of then bidding 4NT to ask for aces.

♠ AQ
♥ AJ3
♦ Q64
♣ AQ952
19 HCPs

♠ KJ95
♥ 93
♦ AK3
♣ K653
14 HCPs

S	N
1NT	2♠
3♣	6NT

♠ AQ
♥ AJ3
♦ Q64
♣ AQ952
19 HCPs

♠ K952
♥ 93
♦ AJ3
♣ KJ53
12 HCPs

S	N
1NT	2♠
2NT	3NT

So 1NT - 2♠ could show either

1. A very weak minor.
2. A balanced 11 count with no major suit.
3. A balanced 19/20 count with no major suit.

So what is 2NT - 3♠ ?

2NT - 3♣ is still Stayman (or Puppet Stayman if you play it.)

2NT - 3♦ is still a transfer to hearts and

2NT - 3♥ is still a transfer to spades

2NT - 3♠ is - - - ? another bid without a meaning.

Partner opens 2NT!

♠ QJ
♥ AJ4
♦ AQ6
♣ AK753

You hold

♠ K9752
♥ 10983
♦ 52
♣ Q6

Do you transfer? Then what?
If you bid 4♥ you have missed 3NT

Do you use Stayman?
and miss a 5/3 in spades

So let us find a problem that 3♠ might solve!

What if we agree - that after 2NT, 3♠ shows precisely FIVE spades & FOUR hearts?

♠ K9752
♥ 10983
♦ 52
♣ Q6

♠ AQJ
♥ Q4
♦ KQ6
♣ AK952

S	N
2NT	3♠
4♠	

♠ K9752
♥ 10983
♦ 52
♣ Q6

♠ J4
♥ AQJ4
♦ KQ6
♣ AK95

S	N
2NT	3♠
4♥	

♠ K9752
♥ 10983
♦ 52
♣ Q6

♠ J4
♥ AQJ
♦ KQ6
♣ AK952

S	N
2NT	3♠
3NT	

Use 3♠ to show 5 spades and 4 hearts
enabling the 2NT opener
to choose the best contract.

♠ KJ75
♥ Q10983
♦ 52
♣ 96

♠ A104
♥ A4
♦ KQ6
♣ AK952

S	N
2NT	3♦
3♥	3♠
4♠	

Use a normal transfer
sequence to show
5 hearts and 4 spades

♠ KJ752
♥ 1098
♦ 53
♣ Q63

♠ A104
♥ KJ2
♦ KQ
♣ AK952

S	N
2NT	3♥
3♠	3NT
4♠	

TRANSFER

♠ KQ75
♥ 1098
♦ 8532
♣ Q6

♠ J10
♥ AQJ
♦ KQ6
♣ AK952

S	N
2NT	3♣
3♦	3NT
P	

STAYMAN

WEAK TWOS

In traditional 'Acol', 2 level opening bids are strong. Using 'Weak Twos' as mini pre-empts affects other bids in your system! *especially your 2♣ openings bids.* **You must agree with partner which system you are playing BEFORE you begin.**

Benjaminised Acol ('Benji' for short.) or **Weak Twos in 3 suits** (diamonds, hearts & spades) are the most common bidding systems using Weak Twos. ('Benji' requires more complex changes)

OPENING A 'WEAK TWO'

To open a 'Weak Two' your hand should satisfy most of the following:

1. You hold a *decent* six card suit.
2. You do not hold four cards in an outside major.
3. You have 6ish - 10ish pts.
4. You have a hand which is usually an eight loser.
5. You cannot satisfy two of the three criteria to open 1 of the suit.

REMEMBER the criteria for opening 1 of a suit?
3 Controls (A=2, K=1)
12+ HCPS
7 loser
With any TWO of these three criteria in place, open 1 of a suit.

RESPONDING TO A 'WEAK TWO' (for social players) Usually responder will pass opener's mini pre-empt, but occasionally, responder will have a big hand and may want to investigate a game contract.

Losing Trick Count (Assume opener to be an 8 loser.)

With three card support, for opener's 2♥ or 2♠, bid 3 with a 7 loser or bid 4 with a 6 loser.

At favourable vulnerability (NV. against V.) and a good fit, your raise may be designed keep the opponents quiet.

Rule of 17 (I must confess that I have never used this method so cannot recommend it.)

After a weak two by partner, add your HCPs to the number of cards you hold in the suit.

If the answer is 17 or more, bid game.

West opens 2♠	East holds ♠ KQ2 ♥ AQJ875 ♦ 3 ♣ 654 6 loser	East has 12 HCP + 3 spades = 15. The 'Rule of 17' says - no game. "Nonsense" says 'another expert', "If west opened a vulnerable 2♠ east should just bid 4♠. It would be laydown opposite as little as"	West held ♠ A109873 ♥ K42 ♦ 62 ♣ 82 8 loser
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Interestingly the LTC would get you to game on this hand, (but remember nothing works all of the time!)

RESPONDING TO A WEAK TWO (for club players)

Many club players use a more precise convention called 'Ogust' responses. (sheet available if required)

IF PARTNER'S 'WEAK TWO' IS DOUBLED,

you should normally pass - even with a singleton or void in the suit.

The opponent's double is a 'Takeout double' and the doubler's partner will usually bid another suit.

The only times you should even think about bidding after RHO doubles are:

1. *If you also hold a six/seven card suit and a void in partner's suit after the double.
2. If you are weak and can make it harder for opponents by raising partner with 3 or 4 card support.

*Sometimes - You are in trouble but don't dig the hole any deeper!

SIMPLE DEFENCE TO 'WEAK TWOS'

If opponents open a Weak Two, the simplest defence is to treat the bid as if it were a 1 level suit bid.

1. Double for Takeout (Showing a shortage in the opponent's suit, and opening values.)
2. Suit Overcalls: 10+ points & a six card suit (or a very good five card suit.)
3. 2NT Overcall: 16-19 points balanced or semi balanced WITH at least one good stop in the bid suit.

WEAK TWOS & THE 2♣ OPENING

Hand from a recent teams match.

♠ Q8753		♠ AK9
♥ 107		♥ 865
♦ QJ42		♦ K93
♣ J4		♣ AKQ9
♠ 2		♠ J1064
♥ AQ9432	Hand 1.	♥ KJ
♦ A85		♦ 1076
♣ 865		♣ 10732

West is too strong for a Weak Two!

W	E
2♥	4♥
Whoops!	

IF you trust in the criteria we have offered you, WEST has four controls and is a 7 loser.

A 1♥ opening bid! NOT a 'Weak Two'.

Even in the olden days you were encouraged to add 'length points' for any suit with more than four cards. So adding 2 points for the SIX card heart suit, you have a 12 count and should open the hand 1♥.

W	E
1♥	2♣
2♥	4NT
5♠	6♥

4NT is Roman Key Card Blackwood

5♠ shows two key cards and the trump queen.

Because of the favourable lie of the opponent's trumps, all 13 tricks roll in.

REMEMBER the criteria for opening 1 of a suit?
3 Controls (A=2, K=1)
12+ HCPs
7 loser
With any TWO of these three criteria in place, open 1 of a suit.

West	East
♠ A109873	♠ KJ652
♥ K4	♥ 83
♦ 652	♦ 4
♣ 82	♣ 97543

Hand 2.

W	E
2♠	4♠

FOR CLUB PLAYERS Bridge is competitive! In Hand 2, east must recognise that E/W have NO defensive tricks. N/S have the values for game and probably a slam! East should raise to 4♠ immediately. NOTE how the shape compensates for the lack of HCPs. In Hand 1 east needed aces & kings to compensate for the lack of shape.

West's 2♠ open is a **LIMIT BID** (similar to an opening limit bid of 1NT), **Both indicating that west will not bid again.**

BRIEFLY

PLAYING 'WEAK TWOS IN THREE SUITS' THE 2♣ OPENING

IF you play 'Weak Twos' in three suits you can no longer differentiate between the old fashioned Acol 2♣ opening, (which was forcing to game) and 'Strong Two' openings which promised 8 playing tricks in the suit bid.

All of your strong hands are now described with a 2♣ opening. So it is important to define what this 2♣ opening promises!

We suggest that you now define a 2♣ opening as either: **23+ HCPs balanced** or an unbalanced hand that is no worse than a **4 loser with 7 controls** counting 2 for an ace and 1 for a king. e.g A-A-A-K or AK-K-A-K. Anything short of this, should be opened at the 1 level or 2NT to show a balanced/semi-balanced 20-22 HCPs

RESPONDING TO A 2♣ OPENING

Most of the time your response to partner's 2♣ opening will be 2♦. It is a kind of negative/relay bid that gives opener the opportunity to show what kind of strong hand they have.

If responder happens to have a good five or six card suit with at least two of the top three honours, responder could bid this suit to show a source of tricks beyond opener's strong hand.

In a sequence such as 2♣ 2♦
2♥ is forcing for 1 round.

If responder has 0-3 points they can give a 2nd negative bid of 2NT. Thereafter opener will decide on the final contract.

PLAYING 'BENJI ACOL' THE 2♣ & 2♦ OPENING

If you play Benji Acol, you will be familiar with the various meanings of the 2♣ and a 2♦ opening and the responses.

RESPONDING TO A 2♣ OPENING

If partner opens 2♣ you make a relay bid of 2♦. The relay bid is a *forced response* and is NOT a negative. This allows opener to describe what the 2♣ is from. Opener's rebid of 2♥ or 2♠ shows a 'Strong Two'.

Opener's rebid of 2NT is a defined range usually 21/22 but needs to be discussed as Benji allows you to play three different ranges of No Trump hands.

PLAYING TRADITIONAL 'ACOL' THE 2♣ OPENING

In traditional Acol, remember that a 2♣ opening is EITHER 23+ or a game going hand. After a 2♣ opening responder cannot pass or stop short of game

RESPONDING TO A 2♣ OPENING

In traditional Acol, 2♦ is a 'negative' showing 0-7 HCPs. Anything else promises 8+ (and Slam possibilities.)

USING STAYMAN

What do partner's bids tell you? (Red text indicates bidding that requires special partnership agreement.)

Cover everything except the *BIDDING* sequences and decide what kind of hand east is describing.

OR cover everything except the *EXAMPLES* and decide how to bid the hands.

BIDDING	WHAT EAST'S RESPONSES MEAN	EXAMPLES
W E 1NT 2♣ 2♥ 3NT	13 pts. with 4 spades DO NOT bid 2♠ after 2♥. Opener knows that you have 4 spades (NOTE - Use HCPs not LTC unless a fit is found).	W E 1NT ♠ AKQ8 ♥ K85 ♦ Q4 ♣ 10832
W E 1NT 2♣ 2♥ 3♥	Balanced hand with four hearts 11/12 pts. 7 or 7.5 loser hand. It is invitational! NOT forcing Only bid on with a 7 loser hand. NOTE - Use LTC not HCPs when the fit is found.	1NT ♠ K3 ♥ AQ85 ♦ Q43 ♣ 10832
W E 1NT 2♣ 2♥ P	0-9 pts. with 5/4 in the majors. East cannot show this weak shapely hand with transfers because after the completion of the transfer any new suit bid would be forcing. East is obviously too weak to force.	1NT ♠ K10853 ♥ QJ85 ♦ 643 ♣ 10
W E 1NT 2♣ 2♦ 2♠	0-9 pts. with 5/4 in the majors. East could simply transfer into spades but this method ensures that you do not miss a 4/4 fit in hearts. 2♠ is an absolute full stop. West must NOT bid again!	1NT ♠ K10853 ♥ QJ85 ♦ 643 ♣ 10
W E 1NT 2♣ 2♦ P	0-9 ish pts. Three suited with a singleton or void IN CLUBS. With a singleton or void in any other suit - pass.	1NT ♠ J762 ♥ 10985 ♦ K643 ♣ 10
W E 2NT 3♣* 3♦ 3NT	* 'Stayman' = 4+ pts. with a four card major. * 'Puppet Stayman' = 4+ pts. with no five card major and NOT BOTH four card majors.	2NT ♠ J76 ♥ 10982 ♦ K643 ♣ 102
W E 2♣ 2♦* 2NT 3♣	Negative = 0-7 pts. - saying that slam is unlikely. *Playing 'Weak Twos in Three Suits' OR 'Benji Acol', 2♦ is a relay bid, allowing opener to show their hand. After the 2NT rebid, 3♣ is Stayman or Puppet Stayman.	2♣ ♠ K76 ♥ 10985 ♦ K643 ♣ 102
S W N E 1♥ 1NT P 2♣* P 2♠ P 4♠	*Stayman = 7+ pts. and a four card major. West's 1NT overcall shows 16 -18 with a heart stop. IF west responds 2♦/ 2♥ east can bid 2NT (7) or 3NT (9)	S W N 1♥ 1NT P ♠ AJ76 ♥ 985 ♦ A1082 ♣ 107
W E 1NT 2♣ 2♥ 4♦*	19 ish pts. with a four hearts. (Our EXAMPLE has good shape.) *4♦ is a splinter bid, agreeing hearts and showing singleton or void in diamonds. If opener then bids 4NT it is Blackwood or RKCB.	1NT ♠ QJ7 ♥ AK85 ♦ 2 ♣ AQJ107
W E 1NT 2♣ 2♥ 4NT*	19 ish pts. with a four hearts. *4NT agrees hearts as trumps and west's responses would be either 'Blackwood' or Roman Key Card Blackwood.	1NT ♠ Q109 ♥ AK85 ♦ K2 ♣ AQJ7

REMEMBER:

- DO NOT USE 1NT 2♣ to show a weak 6 card club suit.
- 1NT - 3♣ is NOT Stayman - (Some pairs will bid this as a mild slam try in the suit bid)
- IF opponents overcall partner's 1NT, or if they X, you cannot use Stayman. (bid naturally)

CONSIDER THE POSSIBLE OUTCOMES

West	East
1NT	♠ 107 ♥ A1085 ♦ 2 ♣ KQJ872

No matter how many gadgets you use, bridge will constantly throw up hands for which there are no clear cut answers.
On this hand, east must decide how to respond to partner's 1NT with 10 HCPs, 4 of a major, and a singleton!

Before bidding anything east should consider the possible rebids by partner.

- Option 1 Pass I have only 10 HCPs (*Far too pessimistic to be playing bridge.*)
 Option 2 2♣ If partner has four hearts, we have a fit and I am a 6 loser. (*but if not - - - what do I do?!?)
 Option 3 2♠ Whatever partner replies (2NT min. or 3♣ max.) we will play in 3♣.

POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF OPTION 2. (USING STAYMAN)

GOOD NEWS

♠ AQJ ♥ KQ92 ♦ 753 ♣ 1062	W E 1NT 2♣ 2♥ 4♥	♠ 107 ♥ A1085 ♦ 2 ♣ KQJ872
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With 4 hearts, game should be ON even opposite an 8 loser.

*BAD NEWS

♠ AQJ ♥ 972 ♦ QJ83 ♣ A62	W E 1NT 2♣ 2♦ 3NT	♠ 107 ♥ A1085 ♦ 2 ♣ KQJ872
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2♦ was not what you had hoped for! What now with 10 HCPs?
You have a singleton diamond AND a poor doubleton spade.
Not perfect for NTs, BUT you have SIX good clubs.

You could have settled for a part score in clubs, by initially responding 2♠ (Did you remember that bid?)

You obviously cannot play in 5♣, but if partner has ♣A, you would have seven tricks towards a game contract in 3NT!

Yes, there is always the worry about the singleton & doubleton but if partner can stop whichever suit opponents lead, that would be eight tricks, and surely another trick might come out in the wash!? Take an optimistic view and bid 3NT!

OH DEAR!!

♠ AQ8 ♥ 742 ♦ AQ843 ♣ 62	W E 1NT 2♣ 2♦ 3NT	♠ 107 ♥ A1085 ♦ 2 ♣ KQJ872
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Well partner had the diamond stop AND the spade stop. But - - both finesses were wrong, opponents forced out your ♥A and held up their ♣A to stop you reaching the club winners.

Just another day at the office!!! But such a disaster should not stop you from positive (*not reckless*) bidding.

Even 1NT could fail on this layout, so an original pass would not save you!!

East ♠ 107 ♥ A1085 ♦ 2 ♣ KJ8752	W E 1NT 2♣ 2NT 3♣
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The hand above had a fairly solid six card minor suit!

Here we have a similar shape and 10 pts. but the minor suit is more 'broken.' With a heart fit there is still a chance of game so Stayman is still a reasonable option.

If opener rebids 2♦ or 2♠, a bid of 3♣ by east would show the 6/4 shape - but weaker and not interested in punting 3NT.

East ♠ 1072 ♥ A108 ♦ 2 ♣ KJ8752	W E 1NT Pass
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With 8 pts and no four card major, Pass is perhaps the best option!

East ♠ 1072 ♥ 1085 ♦ 2 ♣ KJ8752	W E 1NT 2♠ 2NT 3♣
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With only 3 pts and a 6+ minor, use the 2♠ response/(*question*) and sign off in 3♣ to play.)

USING TRANSFERS

We assume that you play transfer bids over 1NT and 2NT opening bids and 1NT overcalls by partner, but remember that if opponents overcall Transfers are off! If they double partner's 1NT, we suggest that EVERY bid becomes a Transfer
DO you understand what your partner's bids are telling you? (Red text indicates bidding that requires special partnership agreement.)
Cover everything except the BIDDING sequences and decide what kind of hand east is describing.
OR cover everything except the EXAMPLES and decide how to bid the hands. Your analysis should include all of the points shown.

BIDDING	WHAT EAST'S RESPONSES MEAN	EXAMPLE
W 1NT 2♥ E 2♦ 2NT	2NT = INVITATIONAL - Shows 11/12 pts. and 5 hearts East will NOT bid hearts again. Opener knows that you have five. 2NT shows a balanced or semi balanced hand. e.g. 2-5-4-2. Opener can : pass with 12 pts. and only two hearts. bid 3♥ with 12 pts. and a fit. East should then pass! bid 3NT with 14 pts. and only two hearts. bid 4♥ with 14 pts. (or 7 loser) and a fit.	W 1NT E ? ♠ A9 ♥ KQ853 ♦ Q4 ♣ 10832
W 1NT 2♥ E 2♦ 3♥	3♥ = INVITATIONAL Shows 11/12 pts. and six hearts 7 or 7.5 loser hand. It is invitational - ONLY to 4♥! (Not 3NT) Opener only bids on with a 7 loser hand and three+ hearts.	1NT ♠ A ♥ KJ10852 ♦ Q4 ♣ J832
W 1NT 2♥ E 2♦ 3♦	3♦ = FORCING TO GAME Shows 13ish pts. and five hearts and five clubs. With only four clubs, treat it as semi-balanced and rebid in NTs.	1NT ♠ A3 ♥ KJ1085 ♦ AJ1083 ♣ 3
W 1NT 2♥ E 2♦ 2♠	2♠ = FORCING FOR 1 ROUND Shows at least 11ish pts., five hearts and four spades. Opener can Bid 2NT with 12 pts., and no fit or 3♥ or 3♠ with 12 pts and a fit.	1NT ♠ AJ84 ♥ KQ1085 ♦ Q4 ♣ 108
W 1NT 2♠ E 2♥ 3♥	3♥ = FORCING TO GAME Shows at least 13 pts., five spades and four hearts. Opener can bid 3NT with no fit or 4♥ or 4♠ with 12 pts and a fit.	1NT ♠ AQ842 ♥ KQ108 ♦ Q4 ♣ 108
W 2NT 3NT E 3♠ P	FORCING TO GAME Shows 4 pts., five spades and four hearts. Opener can bid 3NT with no fit or 4♥ or 4♠ with a fit.	2NT ♠ Q10842 ♥ K1086 ♦ 104 ♣ 98
W 1NT 2NT E 2♠ 3♣	2♠ shows either a balanced 11 pts. without a four card major OR a very weak 6+ card minor. Agree, either to play it as a simple transfer to 2NT after which east's bid of 3♣ or 3♦ must be passed, OR as an enquiry about opener's 12-14. Opener bids 3♣ if 14, or 2NT if 12/13. After 3♣ east can bid 3NT with 11, pass 3♣ or bid 3♦ with long, very weak minor A sequence 1NT - 2NT would be 12 pts. precisely (No 4 card major)	1NT ♠ 842 ♥ 9 ♦ 1043 ♣ A98754
W 1NT 3♣ E 2♠ 3NT		1NT ♠ K72 ♥ Q85 ♦ Q93 ♣ A9875
S 1♦ P W 1NT 2♠ N P P E 2♥ 3NT	West's 1NT overcall shows 16 -18 with a diamond stop. 2♥ is a transfer. East's 3NT rebid shows 9+pts. with five spades. West will either pass 3NT with only two spades or bid 4♠ with three or four spades.	S 1D P W 1NT 2P N P E ? ♠ AQ1095 ♥ Q85 ♦ 102 ♣ Q76

USING TRANSFERS

POINTS TO REMEMBER

1. Normally, Transfers are only into the major suits, (*hearts and spades*)
2. Transfer bids tell partner that you have FIVE or more cards in the transfer suit.
(‘Stayman’ promises at least one FOUR card major, and asks whether opener has a four card major)
3. Opener MUST complete the transfer.
Experienced partnerships may agree to play ‘SUPER ACCEPTS’ with maximum HCPs and 4 of the suit.
4. Transfer bids are made on ALL strengths of hand.
5. If opponents overcall partner’s 1NT transfers are off and responder must bid naturally or pass!
6. After the completion of the transfer, any new suit is NATURAL and FORCING for one round.
7. After the completion of the transfer, 2NT by responder limits the hand to 11/12, 3NT shows 13 +.
With 5 of a major and 4 of a minor generally rebid in NTs. (*No interest in playing in 5 of a minor.*)
Therefore, after the completion of the transfer, bidding a minor will usually show 5 (*Usually unsuitable for NTs*)
8. Responder must NOT rebid the five card suit. Responder’s transfer tells SHOWS FIVE
Remember, the 1NT opener may only have TWO of the suit. The transfer forced opener to bid the suit!!
9. IF responder does rebid the major suit, it shows 6+ and is ONLY invitational to game in that suit. (Not NTs)

1NT	?
♠ AJ842	
♥ KQ83	
♦ 1043	
♣ A	
	2♥
2♠	3♥

1NT	?
♠ A4	
♥ KJ932	
♦ J74	
♣ K82	
	2♦
2♥	2NT

1NT	?
♠ 842	
♥ KJ10953	
♦ 10	
♣ AK8	
	2♦
2♥	3♥

1NT	?
♠ KQ842	
♥ AJ953	
♦ 10	
♣ 97	
	2♥
2♠	3♥
	3NT
	4♥

1NT	2D	?
		♠ KQ842
		♥ 98
		♦ J104
		♣ A98
		2♠
P		

10. If opponents double partner’s 1NT, we suggest that ALL responder’s bids are transfers.
So after partner’s 1NT is doubled, you can transfer into the minor suits as well. (*All of these bids are alertable.*)
BUT responder should only try to wriggle out of trouble if responder is WEAK (0-6 pts.)

Redouble (XX) is a transfer to clubs
 2♣ is a transfer to diamonds
 2♦ is a transfer to hearts
 2♥ is a transfer to spades

1NT X	?
♠ 842	
♥ 9	
♦ 1043	
♣ A98754	
	Bid XX

1NT X	?
♠ 842	
♥ K92	
♦ J7432	
♣ 98	
	Bid 2♣

1NT X	?
♠ 842	
♥ K10953	
♦ 1043	
♣ Q9	
	Bid 2♦

1NT X	?
♠ J10842	
♥ 9	
♦ 10432	
♣ 987	
	Bid 2♥

1NT X	?
♠ Q10842	
♥ 98	
♦ J104	
♣ A98	
	Pass

TWO SITUATIONS WHERE ALTERNATIVES WORK BETTER

11. After a 1NT opening from partner -
If you are weak (0-9) but have 5 of one major AND 4 of the other, use ‘Stayman’.
If opener rebids 2♦ sign off in your five card major. Pass if opener bids a major!

e.g.

1NT	?
♠ KJ842	
♥ Q1098	
♦ J7	
♣ 63	
	2♣

12. After a 2NT opening from partner -
when you hold 5 spades and 4 hearts, use 3♠ to show this shape in one bid!
With 5 hearts and 4 spades, transfer normally, and then bid spades naturally.

e.g.

2NT	?
♠ KJ842	
♥ Q1098	
♦ J7	
♣ 63	
	3♠