

TRANSFER REPLIES TO AN OPENING 2NT

If partner opens the bidding with 2NT it is much easier to describe the shape and strength of your hand by using transfers. It is also possible, if you have a long major suit in a weak hand, to play in your suit at the three level.

E.g: 2NT - 3D (transfer to hearts)

3H - 3NT This sequence promises a 5 card heart suit and game values.
Partner can pass or bid 4H.

2NT - 3H (transfer to spades)

3S - 4S Promises 6+ spades and game values.

2NT - 3H

3S - pass Shows a weak hand with a long spade suit.

2NT - 3D

3H - 3S Promises game values with 5 hearts & 4 spades.

2NT - 3D

3H - 4C Promises 5+ hearts and 4 + clubs (forcing) and presumably

no interest in NTs.

Note that some partnerships would use 4C as a cue-bid.

It is difficult to show a hand with 5 spades and 4 hearts without by passing 3NT. One system is to use 2NT - 3S to promise that shape and at least game values.

2NT – 4NT is quantitative/invitational (not Blackwood) showing 11/12 points so many use 2NT - 4C as Gerber, asking for Aces.

2NT - 3C can be used as Stayman to find a major fit, but it can be used to search for a fit in any suit by using 3C as Baron. I.e. ‘please bid your 4 card suits in ascending order’.

E.g: AK8

QJ98

KJ84

AK

2NT - 3C

3D (I have 4 diamonds) - 3H (I have 4 hearts)

4H (so have I)

N.B: The sequence 2NT - 3C - 3NT denies holding a 4 card diamond, heart or spade suit so must show a 4 card club suit.