

Of course, you could agree to invert the meanings of the two. Also since

1 NT	4♥
4♠	4 NT

is readily available for Blackwood (RKC if used), then

1 NT	2♥
2♠	4♠

is not needed as Gerber, and is freed for something else (perhaps a 6-3-3-1 splinter like 4♦).

*Question:* **You wrote that**

1 NT	2♣
Any	3♣

**is strong, forcing and natural. Are there some players who use it as a signoff?**

*Answer.* Yes, there is a significant number who do. This is one of those auctions that must be discussed. I once lost a Swiss team when two expert teammates had a misunderstanding and played a laydown slam in a partscore!



# Advanced Jacoby

## Fit Bids After Notrump Openings

Playing Jacoby transfers you hold:

♠ 9    ♥ Q 7 5 4 2    ♦ A J 9 3    ♣ 9 5 4

and hear your partner open 1 NT. Before bidding 2♦, you correctly consider what you will do after partner completes the transfer. Although you could have transferred holding much less, you are not strong enough to take another bid. Of course, if partner can jump to 3♥ to show a maximum with four hearts, you can bid a game.

As expected, partner makes the usual 2♥ response. You pass and are astounded to see partner taking 12 tricks. You were "lucky" that both red-suit finesses worked and that partner's hand contained only one wasted point opposite your singleton. On the other hand, partner's shape was 3-4-3-3 and contained only 15 HCP. The exact hand was

♠ J 7 4    ♥ A J 10 6    ♦ Q 10 5    ♣ A K 6

What went wrong?

The problem was that your hand would almost always have a play for game opposite a strong notrump that contained four hearts. Even if partner had wasted spade cards in a hand such as

♠ K J 5 2    ♥ A J 10 3    ♦ Q 6    ♣ A J 3,

game would be good. Your singleton and five trumps give this hand great potential if you have a nine-card fit with the notrumper. As I've said before, the ninth trump is the most underrated concept in bridge.

It would be nice if we could bid Stayman first to see if partner holds four, but even if you weren't using Jacoby Transfers, Stayman would not be the solution here since we would be very awkwardly placed if partner should bid 2♣.

Is there an answer then? Sure! With a little imagination, there always is. If it is crucial for us to know whether opener has four (or conceivably five) of the major transferred to, let's force partner to reveal that fact.

After 1 NT-2♦, all non maximums with 4+ hearts bid 3♥. If opener has a maximum with 4+ hearts he can still bid a doubleton (*Bulletin*, Feb. 82) *en passant*. If opener has no doubleton he can bid 2 NT with the maximum.

Does getting to the three-level with a minimum 15-17 notrump opposite a possible yarrowborough scare you? This is really the same question we raised when I advocated bidding 3♦ over partner's 1♥ bid, holding

♠ 9 4    ♥ Q J 10 6    ♦ 9 7 4 3 2    ♣ 8 5.

After hearing from many readers regarding the 3♣ and 3♦ responses to one of a major, I know that some of you have overcome your fears and are venturing to the three-level when assured of a 9+ card fit—which is all I'm advocating now; it is so important to distinguish how many trumps partner has that we won't be overly concerned about the three level. In fact, there may be several occasions where we get to the three level after a four-card jump and go minus, but do very well since the opponents are cold for game!

Therefore every time we transfer to a major after a 1 NT opening, if opener merely completes the transfer at the two-level, we can be sure the notrumper lacks four trumps. Not only can this prove vital to responder in deciding whether to try for game, but it can also be critical in evaluating slam possibilities.

Here is the schedule of rebids for opener after 1 NT-2♥.

2♠ = two or three spades, any strength

2 NT = four spades, 4-3-3-3, maximum

3♣ = four or more spades, doubleton club, maximum

3♦ = four or more spades, doubleton diamond, maximum

3♥ = four or more spades, doubleton heart, maximum

3♠ = four or more spades, non-maximum.

Obviously, the same principles apply after 1 NT-2♦.

By the way, does everyone know how to "retransfer" to arrange for opener to be declarer as intended, after opener has preaccepted? Responder simply rebids the *suit below* once again. This time opener must obey orders and *accept the transfer*.

Retransfers do not necessarily signal the end of the auction. Holding

♠ A K J 6 5    ♥ 4    ♦ 8 7 3    ♣ A 7 4 2

after 1 NT-2♥

3♦, first bid 3♥ to get the stronger hand to be declarer, then bid 4♣ to show your slam ambitions.

There is no way to retransfer at the three level after 1 NT-2♥

3♥. For that reason, some players bid 2 NT with the one-under preacceptance as well as a 4-3-3-3 super maximum.

Do we use the same structure after 2 NT openings? The answer is a definite yes and no. We don't *always* jump with four trumps, since the jump is now to the four level. However, if we do have a super maximum we can preaccept with a doubleton in case this will be of value for slam exploration. Therefore after 2 NT (20-21)-3♦, opener should bid 3♠ with

♠ A 7    ♥ A K 8 3    ♦ A 9 4    ♣ A J 10 6,

but only 3♥ with

♠ K J 5    ♥ A 9 4 2    ♦ K J 7    ♣ A K J.

We'll conclude this section with a few spectacular illustrations of what is possible with our mandatory four-card jumps and doubleton-showing fit bids.

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|----|---|---|
| 1) | ♠ K 8 6 2<br>♥ A J 6 2<br>♦ A 7<br>♣ K Q 5<br>1 NT<br>3♦<br>3♠        | ♠ Q J 7 6 4 3<br>♥ 8<br>♦ 8 6 4 2<br>♣ 5 3<br>2♥<br>3♥<br>4♣          |
| 2) | ♠ Q 7 4 2<br>♥ Q J 9 5<br>♦ K 2<br>♣ A K 5<br>1 NT<br>3♥              | ♠ 8<br>♥ K 10 8 4 3<br>♦ Q 9 6 5 4<br>♣ 9 3<br>2♦<br>4♥               |
| 3) | ♠ A 10 6 5<br>♥ A Q 6<br>♦ A Q 7 3<br>♣ A 7<br>2 NT<br>4♣<br>4♠<br>5♣ | ♠ K 8 7 4 3 2<br>♥ 8<br>♦ 9<br>♣ K 10 6 4 2<br>3♥<br>4♥<br>4 NT<br>7♠ |

If you decide to try these fit bids, remember that they are all Alertable. Even 1 NT-2♥-2♠ is Alertable, since 2♠ indicates fewer than four spades.