

Responding to 1 NT openings - Transfers

Board 1

North Deals
None Vul

♠ A 10 7 6 2
♥ K J 7
♦ Q 10
♣ K J 5

N
W E
S

♠ K Q
♥ Q 10 9 8 4
♦ K J
♣ 9 7 6 2

♠ 9 8 3
♥ 6 5
♦ A 7 6
♣ A Q 10 8 4

West	North	East	South
	Pass	Pass	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♦	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	2 NT	Pass
4 ♥	All pass		
4 ♥ by West			
Lead: ♣ 3			

Following West's 1 NT opening bid, East transfers to hearts by bidding diamonds, the suit below hearts. West automatically completes the transfer by bidding 2 ♥. With a five-card heart suit and an invitational hand, East now bids 2 NT. West is maximum and knows there is an eight-card heart fit, so bids 4 ♥.

North leads the singleton club. South can work that the lead is a singleton, as with three to an honour, West would have a singleton. The four of clubs (a low card) is returned so that North knows to return the lower ranking suit, diamonds, to achieve a second ruff. This use of cards to request a given suit be led is known as a Suit Preference Signal. On this defence, the contract goes down two.

Play theme: Beating contracts by taking ruffs.
Suit preference signals when giving ruffs.

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Board 2

East Deals
N-S Vul

♠ Q J 10
♥ Q J 10 8 4
♦ A Q J 6
♣ 5

N
W E
S

♠ 5 4 3 2
♥ A
♦ 10 4 2
♣ A Q 7 4 3

♠ 9 7 6
♥ 9 7 6 5
♦ 3
♣ K J 9 8 2

West	North	East	South
		1 NT	Pass
2 ♦	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	All pass		
4 ♥ by East			
Lead: ♦ 3			

When East bids 1 NT, West instructs a transfer to hearts and, when partner obliges, shows the four-card diamond suit next. Bidding a second suit at the three level after a transfer is a natural and game forcing bid. East bids three hearts with a fit in both red suits. West bids game.

South leads the singleton diamond. On getting in with the ♥ A, North plays a low diamond so that, after ruffing, South knows to underlead the ♣ A, the lower ranking suit, to score a second ruff.

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Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

♠ Q 9 8

♥ Q J 9 8 7 6

♦ K 8

♣ K 8

♠ A K 4 2

♥ 4 3

♦ J 7 3

♣ J 10 3 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 6 3

♥ 10 5

♦ A 6 5 4 2

♣ A 9 6 5

11

9 8

12

♠ J 10 7 5

♥ A K 2

♦ Q 10 9

♣ Q 7 4

West

North

East

South

1 NT

Pass

2 ♦

Pass

2 ♥

Pass

3 ♥

All pass

3 ♥ by South

Lead: ♠ A

After South opens 1 NT, North wants to show a six-card heart suit and invitational values. This can be done by transferring to hearts first and then hearts at the three level. Bidding hearts after partner has completed the transfer shows a six-card suit or more. When South passes the 3 ♥ bid, North knows South is minimum for their original 1 NT bid.

West leads the ♠ A. East encourages with the ♠ 6. West continues with the ♠ K and another spade to give partner a ruff and defeat the contract.

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Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ K 10

♥ Q J 8 4

♦ A Q 9 8

♣ 8 7 6

♠ Q 2

♥ A 10 9 5

♦ 10 7 6 2

♣ J 5 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J 6 5 4

♥ 7 6

♦ J 4

♣ K Q 10 4 2

12

7 7

14

♠ A 9 8 7 3

♥ K 3 2

♦ K 5 3

♣ A 9

West

North

East

South

Pass

1 NT

Pass

2 ♥

Pass

2 ♠

Pass

3 NT

All pass

3 NT by North

Lead: ♣ K

South instructs North to transfer to spades, and once North complies, rebids 3 NT. This shows a five-card spade suit and enough points for game. North can now choose to play in either no trumps or spades. With only two spades, North prefers the no trump game.

East leads the ♣ K. West should unblock the ♣ J as a king lead against a NT contract should have at least KQ10 heading the suit. Declarer should duck the first club in case the suit breaks 6-2. However, the contract can be beaten as the defence will score four club tricks as well as the ♥ A.

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Board 5

North Deals

N-S Vul

♠ A 10 8

♥ J 9 6 4 2

♦ K 10 9

♣ A 5

♠ K 9

♥ 5

♦ 8 7 4 3

♣ J 10 9 4 3 2



♠ 7 6

♥ A K 8 3

♦ A 6 5 2

♣ 8 7 6

♠ Q J 5 4 3 2

♥ Q 10 7

♦ Q J

♣ K Q

12

4 11

13

West

North

East

South

1 NT

Pass

2 ♥

Pass

2 ♠

Pass

4 ♠

All pass

4 ♠ by North

Lead: ♥ A

With a six-card spade suit, South bids 2 ♥ as a transfer to spades, and then, knowing there are game values, bids to 4 ♠.

East leads the ♥ A followed by the ♥ K. On the third round of the suit, the ♥ 8 is played to ask West to return a diamond. The defence can score a second ruff with the trump king to take the contract two down.

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Board 6

East Deals

E-W Vul

♠ K 9

♥ 9

♦ K J 6 3 2

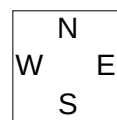
♣ 10 8 5 3 2

♠ 10 8 5

♥ K J 3 2

♦ Q 5 4

♣ A Q J



♠ A 6 4 3 2

♥ Q 10 8

♦ 10 9 7

♣ K 4

♠ Q J 7

♥ A 7 6 5 4

♦ A 8

♣ 9 7 6

7

13 9

11

West

North

East

South

Pass

Pass

Pass

1 NT

Pass

2 ♥

Pass

2 ♠

All pass

2 ♠ by West

Lead: ♥ 9

With a weak hand and a five-card spade suit, East bids 2 ♥, and when West completes the transfer, East passes.

North leads ♥ 9. South wins and gives partner a ruff with the ♥ 7. This is a high card, asking for the higher ranking suit to be returned. North returns a diamond and receives a second ruff. With the ♦ K and two trumps to come, the contract will go two down.

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