

# Two Over One

## Notrump System Review

Describing nearly anything over an opening 1NT

### Over a 1 notrump opening

- 2♣ Stayman
- 2♦ transfer to hearts  
or  
first step of Walsh Relay
- 2♥ transfer to spades
- 2♠ transfer to 3 clubs, enroute to bailing out at 3 of a minor
- 2NT invitational to 3NT (8 or 9 HCP)
- 3♣ invitational to 3NT: 6-card suit headed by AQ or KQ with nothing or nearly nothing outside.
- 3♦ invitational to 3NT
- 3♥ 5 - 5 in the majors, invitational to game
- 3♠ 5 - 5 in the majors, forcing to game
- 3NT to play
- 4♣ Gerber, RKC
- 4♦ transfer to hearts, on in comp
- 4♥ transfer to spades, on in comp
- 4♠ undefined
- 4NT invitational to 6 NT
- 5NT forcing to 6NT, invitational to 7NT
- 6NT to play
- 7NT to play

### Fancy Stayman Responses

**Runout Stayman** Responder seeks to improve the contract to 2 of a major with a weak hand. Example:

7432 J964 J8532 -----

Responder bids 2 clubs and passes whatever opener bids next. Responder must have 4 or 5 diamonds, so he usually holds a void or singleton in clubs. Opener responds normally to Stayman and is warned by responder's pass not to act again.

-----  
**Garbage Stayman** Responder holds a weak hand with 5-4 in the majors and seeks to play at 2 of a major. Example:

Q864 QJ863 3 974

Responder's initial bid is 2 clubs. If opener bids a major, responder passes. If opener bids 2 diamonds, responder bids 2 of his 5-card major. Opener is warned to pass.

-----  
**Strong hand with good minor.** Responder holds a 4-card major and a 5-card minor with about 12+ points or greater. Example:

AJ54 9 KQ965 K87

Responder begins with Stayman, but opener does not hit his suit. So responder rebids 3 of the minor to describe this hand. Opener can sign-off at 3NT or cue bid to explore slam in the minor suit. A raise to 4 of the minor is Minorwood. If opener holds two 4-card majors,

# Notrump System Review

page two

he will have bid hearts first. So after responder bids 3 of the minor, opener's bid of 3 spades shows 4 spades, and is not a cuebid.

-----  
**Artificial 4 diamonds** Here is an example of an auction using the artificial 4 diamonds:

opener	responder
1NT	2♣
2♠	4♦

Responder's hand may look like this:

AQ104 75 A84 KQ97

By using the artificial 4 diamond bid, responder announces that he has point count to invite a small slam and that he has a 4-card fit for opener's spade suit. Opener is free to sign off at 4 spades, or he may explore for slam using either cuebids or RKC.

-----  
**Concealed splinter** When opener shows a major in response to Stayman, responder may continue by bidding 3 of the other major.

opener	responder
1NT	2♣
2♠	3♥

Responder will have a hand like this:

AJ75 K93 6 KQ1083

The meaning of responder's 2nd bid is to show slam interest in the major by announcing a hand containing a singleton or void. If opener wants to know the location of the short suit, he will make the cheapest bid possible. This is just like showing a concealed splinter in response to an opening bid of 1 of a major, as are all subsequent responses.

## Fancy Transfer Responses

**The 5 – 4 Game Force** When responder transfers opener to a major and then bids a minor, he is showing slam invitational values (at least 12+ HCP) and a 4-card minor. Just in case opener does not have a fit in the major, responder is offering yet one more suit as a possible suit for slam.

Compare this to the "strong hand with good minor" just reviewed under Stayman. In both cases responder follows his first basic bid with a rebid in a minor suit. When responder first uses Stayman he has a 4-card major and 5-card minor. When responder first uses a transfer bid, he has a 5-card major and 4-card minor.

-----  
**Opener's super-accept** Responder will sometimes transfer opener into a suit in which the opener himself holds 4 cards. If opener also holds maximum HCP, he can express his strength and fit directly with a super-accept. If responder has bid 2 hearts to transfer opener to 2 spades, opener jumps to 3 spades instead. If responder has bid 2 diamonds to transfer opener to 2 hearts, then opener bids 2 spades instead.

If opener has jumped to 3 spades, responder can either pass or raise to 4 spades, as best suits his hand (stronger actions are also possible with stronger hands).

If opener has bid 2 spades in response to 2 diamonds, signifying a heart super-accept, then responder will rebid 2NT with any heart holding. Opener will then bid 3 hearts, completing the transfer. At that point responder can pass or bid, according to his strength and judgment.

# Notrump System Review

page three

**6-card suit with mild slam interest** Responder may have a 6-card major instead of a 5-card major. Responder will elect which bidding sequence to use depending upon his strength.

- With no more than a desire to play at 4 of the major, responder should use a Texas Transfer and transfer directly at the 4-level, not at the 2-level.
- With strength to bid slam, responder should again use a Texas Transfer and transfer directly at the 4-level. After opener bids the designated suit, responder can either cuebid or else employ RKC.
- When responder's strength lies between the 2 cases described above, then he has a hand that may be too good for game, but which is not strong enough to take control of a slam exploration. In this case, responder should not use a Texas Transfer. In this case he should transfer at the 2-level and then jump to game. This expresses mild slam interest to opener who may pursue it or disregard it, as his own hand suggests.

-----  
**Transfers in competition** If an opponent bids 2 clubs over partner's 1NT opening, then responder's double is Stayman and transfers at the 2-level are ON. If an opponent makes an overcall other than 2 clubs, then 2-level overcalls are OFF, while 4-level transfers are ON (but of course a 6-card suit is required). **When an opponent interferes at the 3-level, then negative doubles are ON.**  
-----

## Smolen

When responder has 9+ or more HCP together with a 4-card major and also a 5-card major, he can always be assured that the partnership will reach the proper contract. First he bids Stayman, to see if opener has a 4-card fit for one of the majors. If opener does not, he will bid 2 diamonds. Responder will then continue by jumping to the 3-level in his 4-card suit. This bid invites opener to bid game in the other major if he possesses a 3-card fit in it. If opener fits neither major, he can still sign-off at 3NT.

**6-4 Smolen** If responder is 6-4 in the majors with game values, then he acts initially as if he were 5-4, and he proceeds with the Smolen process: he first bids Stayman, then, if no fit has been found, he leaps to the 3-level in his 4-card suit. Now if opener attempts to sign-off at 3NT, responder has one further bid: he transfers into his 6-card suit at the 4-level.

opener	responder
1NT	2♣
2♦	3♥
3NT	4♥

Responder's 4 heart call is a transfer to 4 spades. Responder has 4 hearts and 6 spades.

## Walsh Relays

Sometimes when opener begins with a 1NT call, responder has a good hand with a 6-card minor. This may give the partnership an opportunity to find a minor-suit slam. Most of the field lacks sufficient tools to reach such a slam, so a partnerships that does possess the tools can pick up a good matchpoint board or create a strong swing board in a team game.

Accessing the Walsh Relay requires a triggering sequence, which is to say a sequence

# Notrump System Review

## page four

of bids that establishes a minor suit auction.

opener	responder
1NT	2♦
2♥	3♠
2NT	

that responder does not have hearts, but he has a minor suit slam try.

Responder's 2 diamond call would appear to be a Jacoby Transfer. But when responder next bids 2 spades, he "erases" the transfer bid and "triggers" a Walsh Relay. Opener bids 2NT as a matter of course, clearing the way for responder's next bid, which will describe the nature of his 6-card minor suit.

Here are the meanings of responder's bids after the triggering sequence:

- 3♣ 6 clubs, broken honor sequence such as AJxxxx or KJxxxx
- 3♦ 6 diamonds, broken honors
- 3♥ 6 clubs, 2 of top 3 honors
- 3♠ 6 diamonds, 2 of top 3 honors
- 3NT Solid Suit (AKQxxx) and 7 tricks (Suit may be a minor or a major)

In order for opener to accept the slam he should typically have a suitable fit, depending upon the nature of responder's honors, as well as maximum values.

-----

**Triggering after a super-accept** The trigger shown above will not be available if opener has super-accepted a heart transfer. The auction will have begun:

opener	responder
1NT	2♦
2♠	

In this case, responder just makes a descriptive bid as shown above with no other prelude. This is possible because a responder with hearts will always bid 2NT. So failure to bid 2NT signifies

# Notrump System Review

page five

## Practice:

Explain the meanings of these auctions

1NT P	3♦	①	⑤	1NT 2♦	2♣ P
1NT 2♠ 3♦	2♣ 3♣	②	⑥	1NT 2♠	2♥ 3♦
1NT 4♠	4♥ 4NT	③	⑦	1NT 2♠	2♦ 2NT
1NT 3♠	2♥	④	⑧	1NT 2♥	2♣ 3♠

1NT 2♦	2♣ 2♥	⑨	⑬	1NT 2♦	2♣ 3♠
1NT 2♥	2♦ 2♠	⑩	⑭	1NT 2♥ 2NT	2♦ 2♠ 3♠
1NT 3NT	3♣	⑪	⑮	1NT 2♥	2♣ 4♦
1NT 2♠	2♥ 4♠	⑫	⑯	1NT 2♠	2♦ 3♥

# Notrump System Review

page six

## Answers

1. Responder has 6 or 7 diamonds headed by AQ or KQ, inviting opener to bid 3NT if she has the missing diamond honor. Opener has passed because she lacks the diamond honor.
2. Responder has bid Stayman hoping for a heart fit. When opener denies four hearts, responder announces a 5-card club suit and opening values, inviting slam in clubs. Opener's 3 diamond call is a cuebid of a 1st or 2nd round control in diamonds. It affirms an interest in the club slam.
3. Responder has 6 or more spades and is fairly certain that slam exists, so she goes to 4NT RKC.
4. Responder is transferring to spades, and opener shows 4 spades and 17 points.
5. Responder has subpar points and both majors. But opener denies a major suit, so responder abandons her in diamonds. Responder has 4 or 5 diamonds.
6. In addition to 5 spades, responder also has 4 diamonds and at least opening strength. Responder is suggesting that a slam may be possible in either spades or diamonds, but opener's evaluation and opinion is being sought.
7. Responder has transferred to hearts and opener has super-accepted, holding 4 spades and 17 points. Responder has bid 2NT affirming that she does indeed have hearts and asking opener to complete the transfer. Responder will either pass over 3 hearts or she will show values.
8. Responder has 4 hearts and slam values (12 or more HCP). Moreover, responder has a singleton or void in an undisclosed suit.
9. Responder has 5 hearts and 4 spades and less than 8 points, probably less than 7.
10. Responder has a 6-card minor suit and wants to suggest a slam try.
11. Responder has a 6-card club suit headed by AQ or KQ with nothing outside. Responder invites opener to bid 3NT if opener possesses the missing club honor. Opener's call of 3NT affirms that she has that missing club honor.
12. Responder has 6 spades and is showing mild slam interest.
13. Responder has 5 hearts and 4 spades. This bid forces game either in hearts or NT.
14. Responder's 2 spade call has nullified the heart transfer and announced a minor suit slam try. Opener has bid 2NT to give responder room to describe. The 3 spade call describes 6 or 7 diamonds headed by 2 of the top 3 honors.
15. This is the artificial 4 diamond call. It affirms a heart fit and invites a heart slam if opener has the upper range of values for her original call. Opener may sign off at 4 hearts, or jump to 6 hearts, or cuebid, or use RKC.
16. Responder is making a slam try in clubs. The 3 heart call announces that responder has slam interest in clubs with 2 of the top 3 honors.

# Notrump System Review

page seven

## Practice:

Look at your hand and then make the next bid

J1063 Q742 96542 ——— (1)	(5) AK94 872 6 AQJ65 1NT ?? 2♦ ??
KJ842 KJ543 84 6 (2)	(6) Q1086 KJ974 8 K109 1NT ?? 2♦ ??
K84 9 KJ4 AJ10863 (3)	(7) KQ862 43 K6 AQ85 1NT ?? 2♥ ?? 2NT ??
KJ9832 94 AJ4 82 (4)	(8) Q10974 K9532 84 7 1NT ??

A8 KJ98 AQ98 J83 (9)	(13) K986 J9743 73 52 1NT ?? 2♥ ??
QJ84 AQ10865 8 542 (10)	(14) 5 873 J84 KQ10964 1NT ??
10 KJ4 AQJ973 Q98 (11)	(15) AQJ86 KJ742 ——— K32 1NT ?? 2♥ ?? 2NT ??
AQ K973 8 AJ9732 (12)	(16) This time you are opener AQJ8 K1074 K9 A32 1NT 2♦ ??

# Notrump System Review

page eight

## Answers

1. Even though you are bereft of points, try to get to 2 of a major instead of playing in 1NT. If partner bids a major, pass. If partner bids 2 diamonds, also pass.
2. Partner will have at least 3 cards in at least 1 of your major suits. So count your distribution points now. You have enough to be in game, so bid 3 spades, asking partner to bid game in her best major suit.
3. You have interest in a club slam, so use the Walsh relay. Bid 2 diamonds, and when partner transfers to hearts, bid 2 spades to nullify the transfer, whereupon partner will bid 2NT. With a broken club suit, just bid 3 clubs and let partner evaluate.
4. You and partner have a guaranteed spade fit and you have values for game (9 HCP with 6-card suit is easily worth 10 points). So bid 4 hearts and transfer into spades.
5. Bid Stayman to try for a spade fit. When partner bids hearts, bid 3 clubs to show your 5-card club suit and extra values. Don't worry. If partner has 4 hearts AND 4 spades, she will bid 3 spades over 3 clubs. Otherwise, she will either bid 3NT or else try for the club slam.
6. Bid Stayman to find a major suit fit. If opener bids 2 diamonds, jump to 3 spades, your 4-card major. This Smolen Transfer tells partner you have 5 hearts.
7. Having transferred to show your 5 spades, bid 3 clubs to show your second suit and extra values. Partner has a lot of information for choosing a course of action.
8. This is not a 5 point hand. With extra shape and your honors in your suits, you have enough to invite a game in partner's best major. Your call is 3 hearts.
9. Partner has a heart fit, but how good is her hand? Jump to 4 diamonds (the artificial 4 diamond call), affirming the major suit fit and points to invite slam. Partner will stop at 4 hearts with a minimal notrump opener and try for slam with a good hand.
10. Start with Stayman and hope for a fit. Over 2 diamonds, jump to 3 spades, suggesting you hold 5 hearts. When partner can't support hearts, bid 4 diamonds, transferring her into your 6-card heart suit.
11. Make a minor suit slam try. Your 2 diamond call will transfer partner to hearts. So next bid 2 spades to nullify the transfer. When partner now bids 2NT, show a 6-card diamond suit headed by 2 of the top 3 honors by bidding 3 spades. Now it's up to partner.
12. Finding a heart fit, show slam interest by announcing that you also have a singleton or void. To make this announcement, bid 3 of the other major, in this case, 3 spades. If partner also has slam interest, she can bid 3NT to ask you where your shortness is located. In that case, bid 3 diamonds. If partner doesn't have slam interest, she won't ask you to identify your short suit.
13. Bid Stayman, your intention is to pass partner when she bids hearts or spades. If, instead, she bids 2 diamonds, bid 2 hearts, your 5-card suit and advise her to "drop dead."
14. Bid 3 clubs to show six clubs headed by KQ or AQ. You are inviting 3NT if partner has the missing honor. If partner lacks it, she will pass you to play in 3 clubs.
15. With two 5-card majors and slam interest, bid 2 hearts to transfer partner to spades, then bid 3 hearts. If partner bids 4 hearts or 4 spades, she denies slam interest (although, with these cards, you will override her negation). Any other suit bid is a cue bid.
16. Bid 2 spades. This is a superaccept of partner's heart transfer. It expresses your 4-card support plus maximum point count. But you should be wondering if partner really does have hearts. She could have been the initiating a Walsh Relay. If partner has hearts, she will now bid 2NT. If partner bids anything else, she is describing a minor suit and asking you to evaluate a minor suit slam.