

Transfer Method For Dealing With Interference to 1NT Openings

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Based on the Article by Michael
Donnelly in the November 2016 Bridge
Bulletin

Why This Instead of Lebensohl?

- This method may be easier to remember than Lebensohl.
- Lebensohl does not right-side contracts unless “Stayman” is used.
- Lebensohl’s direct-seat penalty doubles rarely work because opponents rarely use natural overcalls.
- Instead they use transfer bids (Tonto), two suited bids (DONT, etc.), and bid suits they do not have to tell their partner what suits they have (i.e., 2D shows the majors).

Strong or Weak NT Openings?

- This presentation will deal with Strong Notrump Openings.
- With some modifications such as retaining penalty doubles of overcalls, this method can work well with Weak Notrump Openings.

How Does It Work?

- If Opponent Doubles, all systems are on:
 - 2♣ is Stayman.
 - 2♦ transfers to 2♥.
 - 2♥ transfers to 2♠.
 - 2♠ and 2NT do what they normally do.
 - Discuss the meaning of Redouble with Partner otherwise assume it shows we hold the balance of power.
 - Your 3 or 4 level bids are unaffected.

If Opponent Overcalls 2♣

- Double is Stayman.
- 2♦ transfers to 2♥.
- 2♥ transfers to 2♠.
- 2♠ and 2NT do what they normally do.
- Your 3 or 4 level bids are unaffected.

If Opponent Overcalls 2♦, 2♥ or 2♠

- Your 2-level suit bids are natural and non-forcing.
- You should have at least **five** cards in your suit.
- You should hold **less than 8 HCP**.
- These bids are essentially signoffs and may wrong-side the contract but keep the level low and describe your hand in one bid.

If Opponent Overcalls 2♦, 2♥ or 2♠ Continued.

- With 8+ and a long suit transfer as follows:
 - 2NT transfers to 3♣
 - 3♣ transfers to 3♦
 - 3♦ transfers to 3♥
 - 3♥ transfers to 3♠
 - 3♠ shows game-going values with stopper.
 - 3NT shows game-going values without a stopper.
- After Opener accepts the transfer, Responder may return to 3NT to show only 5-cards, raise to game, make a slam try or even pass!

If Opponent Overcalls 2♦, 2♥ or 2♠ Continued.

- Responder can use a transfer to the Opponent's known (anchor) suit as Stayman and keep Double as Penalty.
- A better choice may be to use a Negative Double as Stayman since this could keep the bidding lower.
- If Negative doubles are used, a transfer into Opponent's suit could be used to show 4-4-4-1 or 4-4-5-0 hands.

Interference At The Three Level

- Remember that Texas transfers are on over interference.
- Use Negative Doubles instead of this method or Lebensohl.
- Opponents use dastardly methods and occasionally 3-level pre-empts because they work!