

# Transfers: The Complete System

## A Full Set of Transfers

Red suit transfers provide no way of coping with a long weak minor. Moreover the 2♠ bid is not used.

A complete transfer system addresses these shortcomings and ascribes new meanings to responses of 2♠ and 2NT.

After you start playing transfers you will probably find yourself playing with partners enticing you to play their extended system. Sadly you are likely to find that each offers you something that is slightly different to the system played by anyone else. A strong recommendation is to resist, and wait until you and your favourite partner have learnt the system recommended by the EBU.

## After The Opponents Intervene?

The simplest agreement is *Systems Off*. In other words if responders Right Hand Opponent overcalls or doubles transfers are not played.

Mature partnerships may agree on a more complex system, but systems off after intervention is much the safest agreement. Then all responses are natural.

## Modern Acol Transfers

Standard English Acol at foundation level is defined in the EBU book *Really Easy Bidding*. Modern Acol extends this system.

The Modern Acol system includes a full set of transfers. It is strongly recommended.

In the USA a different set of transfers, often called *four suit transfers*, is commonly used; but few in the UK play that system.

The advantages of the Modern Acol system are these:

- Well thought out
- Goes well with the 4 card major system of Acol
- Well documented
- Other local players have learnt it
- A very good system for getting to slams

## Warning!

When you first start to play the full set of transfers you will need to be exceptionally careful. It is all too easy to bid 2NT bid when you have an invitational hand devoid of features. 2♠ is the correct bid!

## Modern Acol: The Complete System after a 1NT Opening

Bid	Responder's Bidding Message
2♣	Stayman
2♦	Transfer to hearts
2♥	Transfer to spades
2♠	Modified Baron: opener is asked to bid:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2NT if minimum</li> <li>▪ Lowest 4 card suit if maximum</li> </ul> Responder will have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 11-12 HCP and no 4 card major</li> <li>▪ 18+ HCP. seeking a 4-4 fit and slam</li> </ul>
2NT	Puppet to 3♣ (Not a transfer as responder may not have long clubs) Responder will <i>Pass or Correct</i> to 3♦
3any	Shows a long suit with slam interest
3NT	Game points (13-17), without slam ambitions or features
4♥/♠	Responder has at least 6 cards and strength for game. <i>Denies interest in a slam</i>

**Remember: You must discuss and agree your system with partner before play starts!**