



# Bidding Basics

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## Responding to 1NT – part 2

1NT is the most complex opening bid to respond to, so much so, that we're taking two issues to discuss it.

In Part 1, we examined balanced hands and Stayman responses. Let's start this month with the **Jacoby transfer**.

A response of 2♦ or 2♥ to 1NT is artificial. It says nothing about the suit you are bidding. It shows at least five cards in the next higher suit. So 1NT-2♦ shows five-plus hearts and 1NT-2♥ shows five-plus spades. In ACBL events, these bids are not "Alertable," but "Announceable." It is the partner of the person who makes the bids (in this case, the one who opened 1NT) who says "transfer" out loud.

Must the 1NT opener "accept" the transfer? Yes! Opener cannot pass your Jacoby transfer bid! Usually partner will just bid the suit you've shown, i.e., 1NT-2♦; 2♥ or 1NT-2♥; 2♠. On rare occasions (covered in a later article), the 1NT opener can bid higher, but only with an exceptional hand because responder could be broke.

How many points do you need for a Jacoby transfer? Zero! Suppose your partner opens 1NT and you hold:

♠10 8 6 5 4 3 ♥6 ♦6 5 4 ♣10 7 6.

Would you rather table this dummy in 1NT, where it will usually take zero tricks, or in 2♠, where it will be worth several tricks? Even though you are reaching a level higher, you definitely should place the contract (via the Jacoby transfer) in 2♠. Even with only a five-card major, I recommend always

transferring with a bad hand rather than letting partner struggle in 1NT.

Is there an upper range for a Jacoby transfer? No! Remember that you get to bid again after your transfer, so your hand is unlimited.

After you transfer, you have five choices (the same ones discussed in the previous article):

- ① Pass and let partner play in 2♥ or 2♠
- ② Invite game (either with 2NT or raising the major).
- ③ Insist on game (either by jumping to 3NT or four of your major).
- ④ Invite or investigate slam.
- ⑤ Insist on slam.

Here are some examples to correspond (the details of the follow-ups will be discussed in a future article):

① ♠7 2 ♥Q 10 7 6 5 ♦Q 6 4 ♣6 3 2.

Respond 2♦ to 1NT and pass when partner says 2♥.

② ♠K 2 ♥Q 10 7 6 5 ♦J 7 4 ♣K 3 2.

Respond 2♦ to 1NT, and then invite game with 2NT.

③ ♠K 2 ♥K 10 7 6 5 ♦J 7 4 ♣A 3 2.

Respond 2♦ to 1NT and then insist on game with 3NT. Opener can "correct" to 4♥ if he prefers that contract.

④ ♠K 2 ♥K Q 10 7 6 5 ♦4 ♣Q 10 3 2.

Respond 2♦ to 1NT and then insist on game with 4♥. (Inquiring minds can look up "Texas transfers" at larryco.com). There is no need to show the four-card club suit.

⑤ These are rare circumstances, but suffice to say that after a transfer, a new suit is forcing and 4NT is Blackwood.

### Minors

Can you show a long minor? This is tricky since there is no universal method out there. Of the many methods, let me show you a simple one (though not necessarily the best):

1NT-2♠ = Clubs.

1NT-3♣ = Diamonds.

You can think of these as transfers (but these are Alertable), just like Jacoby transfers. You have to make sure the partnership has discussed this. Responder shouldn't use these transfers just because they are there. For example, if partner opens 1NT and you have, say a flat 11 points with a five-card minor, just bid 3NT. You will "show" your minor when you put down the dummy. Only transfer to the minor if you actually think that suit might become trump.

With, say:

♠7 6 ♥7 6 ♦J 10 8 7 6 5 3 ♣4 2,

you would rather play in 3♦ than 1NT. Transfer there with 3♣. At the other end of the spectrum, you might want to investigate slam with something like:

♠5 ♥A J ♦K J 6 5 ♣A J 10 8 3 2

you can start by transferring to clubs.

Minor-suit transfers (and the need for them) are rare, so devote 99% of your study to Jacoby transfers. Don't

use or worry about minor-suit transfers unless you are absolutely sure they are needed and that you have discussed it with your partner.

Other responses to 1NT not covered here or last month (such as 3♥ or 4♦) are rarer still, and not worth studying/investigating unless you have an infallible memory (and a partner with one). Experienced players eventually incorporate toys such as Splinter bids and Texas transfers.

## BIDDING BASICS QUIZ

Partner opens 1NT (15–17 HCP), and RHO passes. What is your call with each of the following?

1. ♠5 ♥J8765 ♦65 ♣J10965
2. ♠KQJ876 ♥54 ♦A ♣J832
3. ♠KQ1087 ♥AJ765 ♦43 ♣2
4. ♠J7654 ♥Q76 ♦J65 ♣Q10
5. ♠K4 ♥Q7 ♦AJ8765 ♣J32
6. ♠5 ♥642 ♦76 ♣Q1087652
7. ♠— ♥A2 ♦Q865 ♣AJ109654
8. ♠AJ2 ♥A10 ♦KQ2 ♣A10654

### Answers

1. 2♦. Place the contract in 2♥, likely much better than 1NT.
2. 2♥. You will place partner in 4♠ on your next turn. If you know Texas transfers, you can start with 4♥.
3. 2♥. With 5–5, show the higher-ranking suit first (spades) and bid your hearts next.
4. 2♥. I recommend always playing in the major when you are weak (but passing could work out).
5. 3NT. No need to show the diamonds until you table the dummy in 3NT.
6. 2♠. Let partner play this one in 3♣ (not in 1NT).
7. 2♠. To start. You have more exploring to do on the next round.
8. 6NT. No need to show the clubs (nor to use Gerber; how many aces your partner has is not relevant here). ■

## International Fund Game winners

A New Jersey couple won the ACBL-wide International Fund Game held Dec. 20, 2017. Muffie and Reha Gur of Leonardo scored 71.49% playing at the Jersey Bridge Club in West Long Branch. With 325 tables, the game raised \$2292.43 to support North American teams in international competition.



1	Muffie Gur – Reha Gur, Leonardo NJ	71.49%
2	Wayne Hall – Woody Haynes, Chicago IL	70.42%
3	Linda Edwards – Martha McGhee, Mount Dora FL	69.34%
4	Sheila Gabay, Newton MA; Kevin O'Donnell, Lynnfield MA	69.32%
5	Gretchen Perla – Florence Todaro, Canmore AB	67.69%
6	Richard Baumer, Holbrook NY; Martin Finkelman, Jericho NY	67.39%
7	Robert Colavecchia, Bedford NS; Peter Rans, Halifax NS	67.04%
8	Carol Hellebrand, Yorba Linda CA; Kristin St Clair, Brea CA	66.59%
9	Shelley Mardiros – Michael Shuster, Banff AB	66.37%
10	Paddy Allan – Donald Kersey, Kingston ON	66.11%

### Top scores by district

1	Robert Colavecchia, Bedford NS; Peter Rans, Halifax NS	67.04%
2	Lloyd Harris – Michel Malette, Sudbury ON	65.74%
<b>3</b>	<b>Muffie Gur – Reha Gur, Leonardo NJ</b>	<b>71.49%</b>
6	Bud Hampshire, Poquoson VA; Logan West, Newport News VA	63.86%
7	Robert Fendrick, Marietta GA; Jim Stogner, Atlanta GA	63.55%
9	Linda Edwards – Martha McGhee, Mount Dora FL	69.34%
11	Jane Malless – Joseph Shierling, Indianapolis IN	56.02%
	Frederic Hadley, Indianapolis IN; Bob Lyon, Fishers IN	56.02%
12	Walter Casper, Grand Rapids MI; Robert Houtrow, Delton MI	62.38%
13	Wayne Hall – Woody Haynes, Chicago IL	70.42%
14	Charles Hoster Jr. – Mary Pat Miller, Lincoln NE	65.28%
15	William Garner – David Lawhon, Mountain Home AR	58.10%
16	Cheryl Smith, Houston TX; Sheryl Thomas, Richmond TX	62.82%
18	Gretchen Perla – Florence Todaro, Canmore AB	67.69%
20	Anita Hansen – Erik Hansen, Caldwell ID	62.50%
21	Yanong Han, Milpitas CA; Bo Xiao, Fremont CA	65.63%
22	Carol Hellebrand, Yorba Linda CA; Kristin St. Clair, Brea CA	66.59%
23	Gayle Grubb, Newport Beach CA; Linda Renkus, Orange CA	63.22%
24	Richard Baumer, Holbrook NY; Martin Finkelman, Jericho NY	67.39%
25	Sheila Gabay, Newton MA; Kevin O'Donnell, Lynnfield MA	69.32%