



Let's bid, PARTNER!

AFTER A MINOR-SUIT TRANSFER

Holding a long minor opposite a 1NT opening, responder uses a transfer in order to let the strong hand become declarer. But once opener has executed the transfer, he must further specify his hand. In particular, he shows his singleton at the three-level in order to see if it's indicated to play either Three No-trump or game (or even slam!) in the minor. That way, opener will sometimes have the last word depending on his holding in responder's shortness.

1 WEST	EAST
Dealer East.	
♠ 4	♠ KQ9
♥ Q53	♥ J76
♦ K74	♦ AQ652
♣ AQ10873	♣ K4

W	N	East	S
		1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♥	Pass	3NT	

In French standard, bidding 3-of-a-major after a minor-suit transfer allows you to show **shortness in the other major**: West therefore bids 3♥ to show his **singleton Spade**. East has what it takes opposite the missing Spade stopper and serenely signs off in 3NT, the winning game.

2 WEST	EAST
Dealer West.	
♠ Q64	♠ KJ9
♥ AKQ8	♥ 742
♦ A73	♦ KQ9642
♣ J84	♣ 7

West	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♦	Pass	5♦	

After a minor-suit transfer and the completion by opener, the 3NT bid is not

necessarily made with the wish to play this contract. Indeed, if East wanted to play Three No-trump no matter what, he would have simply bid that contract directly. Here, he wishes to show a **singleton in the other minor (here, Clubs)**. West, who has a big hole in Clubs therefore decides to play in Diamonds and East, who has no hopes of slam, signs off in game.

3 WEST	EAST
Dealer East.	
♠ Q6	♠ AK4
♥ K4	♥ AJ76
♦ AK9762	♦ 85
♣ QJ3	♣ K876

W	N	East	S
		1NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4NT			

A direct jump to 4NT after the transfer is not RKC for Diamonds but a **quantitative 4NT with approximately 15 HCP**. East has a minimum with two small Diamonds and is **therefore quick to pass**.

4 WEST	EAST
Dealer West.	
♠ A87	♠ J
♥ KQ6	♥ 94
♦ AJ863	♦ K9742
♣ Q2	♣ AK873

West	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	2♠	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♦	Pass
4♦	Pass	4♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♥	Pass
6♦			

The only way for East to describe his 5-5 minor two-suiter with 11 HCP (therefore game forcing) is to start with a transfer to Clubs and to bid 3♦ next (game forcing). West then realizes that his hand just got a lot better: a ten-card fit in Diamonds and several top cards (Ace or King), very useful in a trump contract. He expresses his enthusiasm with the **very positive**

bid of 4♦. With 14 HLD^(*), East shows his Spade control: with 19 HLD, West doesn't need more to ask for keycards and then bid the slam.

5 WEST	EAST
Dealer East.	
♠ K87	♠ A942
♥ -	♥ QJ97
♦ KJ63	♦ A7
♣ KJ10653	♣ AQ4

W	N	East	S
		1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♥	Pass	4♠	Pass
6♣			

2NT, instead of 3♣, shows a **maximum hand with two Club honors**. East shows his Heart shortness (3♠) and West logically suggests 3NT. But East does not stop there: he must **repeat his Heart shortness (4♥)**, thereby suggesting a **void** (and slam interest)! With only 3 points "lost" in Hearts and four useful big honors (including three Aces!), East cooperates positively by showing a control. West, reassured, can leap to slam.

6 WEST	EAST
Dealer West.	
♠ AQ32	♠ 7
♥ A9	♥ KJ742
♦ 974	♦ KJ10865
♣ AJ74	♣ 6

West	N	E	S
1NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
3♦	Pass	4♥	Pass
5♦			

To describe his two-suiter with 5-6 in the red suits, East **first transfers to the minor** and then **naturally bids his major at the four-level** (non-forcing). West logically prefers the **Diamond game**.

(*) HLD: HCP plus points for length and distribution