

Overloading ♦-Transfer with Weak Minors

The agreement

Following a 1N opening, responder's 2N bid is initially ambiguous with 3 possible meanings:

- Weak Minors, at least 5-4, with no chance of game.
- A weak transfer to ♦, intending to play 3♦.
- A strong transfer to ♦, game forcing, with at least mild slam interest.

Opener *bids the gap*, 3♣, with longer ♣s only. With equal-length or longer ♦s, opener *completes the transfer*, 3♦. Thus, there are only 2 initial continuations:

- Longer ♣s: 1N 2N; 3♣ I have more ♣s than I have ♦s.
- Longer ♦s: 1N 2N; 3♦ I have at least as many ♦s as I have ♣s.

The partnership is able to play below game in 3♣ or 3♦ when responder is weak, or to play in game or to investigate for slam in NT or ♦. In the following, the continuations are described under the six possible responder-opener hand combinations:

Continuations

a) Responder bids 2N with a weak minor 2-suiter

Case a-1: Opener has longer ♣s; responder must pass the 3♣ continuation.

1N	2N
3♣	pass

Case a-2: Opener has longer or equal-length ♦s; responder must pass the 3♦ continuation.

1N	2N
3♦	pass

There are no other cases when responder has a weak minor 2-suiter.

b) Responder bids 2N as a weak transfer intending to play 3♦

Case b-1: Opener prefers ♣; responder corrects to 3♦ and opener must pass.

1N	2N
3♣	3♦
pass	

Case b-2: Opener prefers ♦; responder simply passes opener's 3♦ response.

1N	2N
3♦	pass

There are no other cases when responder is making a weak transfer to ♦.

c) *Responder bids 2N as a strong transfer, forcing to game, with slam interest*

Case c-1: Opener prefers ♣; responder rebids above 3♦.

Case c-1: Opener prefers ♦; responder rebids above 3♦.

The partnership is forced to at least 3N. Regardless of opener's preference, responder indicates the strong transfer by continuing above 3♦ to describe his distribution. Traditional descriptive continuations following a minor suit transfer can be employed to show shortness or a strong semi-balanced hand. Responder's continuations above 3N show strong slam interest, and must be agreed by the partnership. One possibility is to adopt the continuations described below.

1N	2N	
3m	3♥	♥-shortness, 6+ ♦s slam interest
	3♠	♠-shortness, 6+ ♦s slam interest
	3N	strong ♦-transfer with no shortness, mild slam-try
	4♣	♣-shortness, 6+ ♦s slam interest
	4♦	6+ ♦s slam interest, passing control to opener
	4♥	Kickback, 6+ ♦s, strong slam try
	4♠	♠-exclusionary ask, 6+ ♦s, strong slam try
	4N	♥-exclusionary ask, 6+ ♦s, strong slam try
	5♣	♣-exclusionary ask, 6+ ♦s, strong slam try