

JACOBY OR TEXAS

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Jacoby or Texas with a 6-card major?

Jacoby transfers are on the 2-level, Texas transfers are on the 4-level.

A Jacoby transfer guarantees only five—but could be made with a longer suit.

A Texas transfer is "always" at least a 6-card suit.

A Jacoby transfer could be made with 0 points!

A Texas transfer means the responder has enough for at least game.

If you have only a 5-card major, you will *never* use Texas.

Jacoby (2♦ → 2♥; 2♥ → 2♠) 5+ cards 0+ HCP	Texas (4♦ → 4♥; 4♥ → 4♠) 6+ cards "enough for game" HCP
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Suppose your partner opens 1NT (15-17) and you have a six-card (or longer) major. Such hands are easy to bid. You will "always" want to play in your major—you know your side has at least an 8-card trump fit. Let's look at responding hands with 6-card majors:
What level?

1) With a *weak hand*, you Jacoby transfer and pass—playing on the 2-level.

Example:

♠ K J 9 7 6 5
 ♥ 5 4
 ♦ 4 3 2
 ♣ 5 4

1NT -- 2♥
 2♠ -- Pass

(You would do this even without the king or jack. With six little spades and a 0-count, you would Jacoby into 2♠ and then pass).

2) With an *invitational hand*, you Jacoby transfer and raise (invitational). Example:

♠ K J 9 7 6 5
 ♥ K 4
 ♦ 4 3 2
 ♣ 5 4

1NT – 2♥
 2♠ – 3♠ (Game invitational, 6♠)

3) With a *game hand* (no slam interest), you Texas transfer and then Pass.

Example:

♠ K J 9 7 6 5
 ♥ K 4
 ♦ K 3 2
 ♣ 5 4

1NT – 4♥
 4♠ – Pass (No slam interest)

4) With *slam interest*, you Jacoby transfer, then jump to Game.

Example:

♠ K J 9 7 6 5
 ♥ K 4
 ♦ A 3 2
 ♣ K 4

1NT – 2♥
 2♠ – 4♠ (Slam invitational)

NOTES:

1) The sign-off and invite obviously have to start with Jacoby – this is easy to remember

2) The way to remember whether Texas or "Jacoby-then-jump" is the sign-off is as follows: With the stronger hand (slam interest), go slower (Jacoby) – maybe the 1NT opener can show a sign of life by jumping after the Jacoby transfer. You always want to leave more space in slam auctions. (This also applies after 2NT openings.)

Take the slow (snail-like) route with slam interest.

But, if you want to be only in game, you take the direct route (Texas). Jump (like a rabbit) directly to 4 to play there.

3) By starting slam hands with Jacoby, you have other tools available. You can Jacoby transfer then jump in a new suit. This is a splinter bid, showing slam interest. For example, 1NT-2♥-2♠-4♦ shows something like:

♠ A Q J 6 4 2 ♥ K 7 5 ♦ 3 ♣ K 5 3 Accordingly, Jacoby followed by a jump to game, should be a balanced hand (6-3-2-2 type).

4) More experienced players will want to define what 4NT means after a transfer. I suggest that Jacoby followed by 4NT is Quantitative (Invitational). Meanwhile, Texas followed by 4NT should be RKC(or, if you don't use Keycard, play it as regular Blackwood).

Examples:

1NT-2♥-2♠-4NT: ♠ A K J 5 4 ♥ A 3 2 ♦ 10 9 3 ♣ K 5 (invitational, NF)

1NT-4♥-4♠-4NT: ♠ A Q 10 9 7 6 5 ♥ 7 ♦ K Q 2 ♣ K 6 (asks for Key Cards)

Jacoby and Texas Transfers are announced (by the 1NT bidder).