

Principle of extra length Transfer

W N E S
 1M (pass) 2X (2Y,3Z)
 ?

Starting from the double – Martens suggest employing EXTRA LENGTH TRANSFER BIDS. Why?

After 2 over 1 game-forcing and intervention, pass is forcing.

EW can pass with a hand suitable for a penalty double.

My own experience clearly shows that a penalty double is very rare in such a sequence. Opponents who make an overcall after 2-over-1 GF usually have a long and solid suit. Far more often, however, I have seen deals on which we should have doubled our opponents, not because of any significant values in their suit, but because we ourselves couldn't see any sensible contract on the horizon.

W ♠ AKxxx ♥ Kxx ♦ Jxx ♣ Qx	E ♠ xx ♥ AQx ♦ xxx ♣ AKxxx
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None vulnerable

W	N	E	S
1 ♠	pass	2 ♣	2 ♦
pass*	pass	X**	pass...

(*)pass = I don't have any other sensible bid

(**)X = me neither...

The guy making the 2 ♦ overcall held 2362 and ♦ AKQ1098. A trivial promotion of the ♦ Jack allowed us to chalk up +500. At the other table they stopped, very prudently, at 3 ♠... down one.

Starting with a double, We apply the Extra Length Transfer Bid. It's easy to see various benefits that can result from using this concept.

The analysis of a specific bidding sequence will allow everybody to see various advantages of this bidding proposition.

For instance Sequence 1A: 2♠ = +5♠ +4♣.

W	N	E	S
1♠	pass	2♣	2♦
2♠	pass	2NT	pass
?			

3♣ = +5♠ +5♣ - EW learn about +5♠ -5♣ at the three level

3♦ = 5♠ 3♥ 1♦ 4♣, a good fragment

3♥ = 6♠ 4♣, Extra Length

3♠ = 5♠ 1♥ 3♦ 4♣, a bad fragment

3NT = 5♠ 2♥ 2♦ 4♣

HAVE I WON YOU OVER TO THIS IDEA?

If not, let me warn you that the next several pages deal with technical details.

Sequence 1:

W	N	E	S
1♥	pass	2♣	2♦
?			

pass = nothing to say or a penalty double

X = +6♥

2♥ = +5♥ +4♠, not a minimum

2♠ = +5♥ +4♣, not a minimum

2NT = I'd like to play NT from my hand; not a minimum

3♣ = +5♥ +5♣ + ♦ shortage, (without shortage in ♦ we can bid 2♠)

3♦ = 6♥ + extras and a good suit (comfort in the slam zone - 3♥ agrees ♥, one-suiter model)

3♥ = 7♥, as in the 1♥-pass-2♣-(2♦)-4♥ sequence

3♠ = Spade Splinter, 5♥ +5♣

Sequence 1:

W	N	E	S
1 ♠	pass	2 ♣	2 ♦
?			

pass = nothing sensible to say or a penalty double

X = +4 ♥

2 ♥ = +6 ♠

2 ♠ = +5 ♠ + 4 ♣, not a minimum

2NT = natural, positive

3 ♣ = +5 ♠ + 5 ♣ + ♦ shortage (transfer for opponent suit = short)

3 ♦ = +5 ♠ + 5 ♥ a good hand (as 3 ♥ in natural bidding)

3 ♥ = +6 ♠, a good hand + a good suit (as 3 ♠ in natural bidding)

3 ♥ = 7 ♠ (as 4 ♠ in natural bidding)

The advantages of the Extra Length Transfer Bid:

1) It's easy to remember.

2) We don't lose anything.

3) We gain one whole level of bidding in almost every situation because:

A) after a double partner can set hearts as trumps by bidding 2 ♥,

B) after 2 ♥ (+6 ♠) partner can set spades as trumps by bidding 2 ♠,

C) after 2 ♠ (+5 ♠ + 4 ♣) partner can set clubs as trumps by bidding 3 ♣ or can get some more information by bidding 2NT,

D) after 3 ♦ = +5 ♠ + 5 ♥ we can comfortably enter the slam zone by setting hearts at the three level,

E) after 3 ♥ = +6 ♠ we can comfortably enter the slam zone by setting spades at the three level,

F) 3 ♠ = +7 ♠ A good, long suit without extras. In classic natural bidding We have to bid 4 ♠, meaning: 'We play spades'.

Here responder can safely, still at the four level, check for a hypothetical shortage. How? By bidding 3NT. Partner has already announced that we are playing spades, and nothing but spades.