

1♥ Heart Opening Transfer to 1♠ (5+ Spades, 11-21 HCP)

RATING: 12 BOARDS PER SEGMENT

THE METHOD

A 1♥ opening bid shows 5+ spades and approximately 11-21 HCP (i.e. the same as a Standard American 1♠ opening bid).

Responding Structure

The 1♥ transfer opening is forcing to 1♠; it may not be passed. When responder accepts the transfer by bidding 1♠, that shows a hand with fewer than 6 HCP and says nothing about distribution: it is equivalent to a Standard American pass of a 1♠ opening bid. Higher responses are similar to Standard American:

1NT	6-10 HCP, non-forcing
2♣/♦/♥	natural and forcing to 2♠ with 10+ HCP
2♠	3+ spades with 6-10 point in support of spades
2N	4+ spades, game forcing
3♣/♦/♥	strong jump shift
3♠	4+ spades, invitational
3N	13-15 HCP balanced
4♣/♦/♥	4+ spades, singleton or void in bid suit, game forcing
4♠	5+ spades, blocking

After Interference

When the interference is 1NT or higher, we treat the opening bid just as if it were a Standard American 1♠ opening bid. Our methods over suit overcalls include: negative doubles through 4♥, new suits forcing, cue-bid shows a limit raise or better, fit showing jumps (except four of the opponent's suit which is a splinter), preemptive jump raises to 3♠ and 4♠, unusual vs. unusual (reversed so that the cheaper cue-bid is a constructive bid in the 4th suit and the higher cue-bid is a raise), and natural NT bids which are non-forcing. When the opponents overcall 1NT, we play new suits non-forcing and raises preemptive, double is for penalties.

We recommend that opponents treat our transfer opening of 1♥ as a Standard American 1♠ opening and use their regular defensive methods, including a double which is takeout of spades. When the opponents employ this method, we also treat our opening as a Standard American 1♠ opening bid: redouble shows 10+ HCP and implies no fit; 1NT is natural showing about 7-10 HCP; new suits at the two level are natural and constructive, but non-forcing; jumps in spades are blocking; 2NT shows a limit raise or better; and jumps in new suits are fit showing. A 1♠ response shows an inability to bid anything else and indicates that responder would have passed had the auction started with a

Standard American 1♠ opening followed by a 2nd seat takeout double. (We use the same methods if the opponent's double shows a balanced hand.)

If the opponents use a 1♠ bid for takeout, we substitute double for redouble, and all other bids are as if the auction had started with a Standard American 1♠ opening followed by a 2nd seat takeout double.

If the opponents choose to use 1♠ to show hearts and a minor: 1NT natural about 7-10, 2NT natural and invitational, 2m natural and forcing, 2♥ is a cue-bid raise, 3♥ is a mixed raise (about 7-9 with 4+ card support), and double suggests penalties.

SUGGESTED DEFENSE

Treat the opening as a Standard American 1S opening bid and use normal defensive methods:

NOTE: After a 1♥ transfer opening, the intervening side's cue-bids is spades, not hearts.

(1♥)-1NT 16-18 balanced, use methods as after a Standard American (1♠)-1NT

(1♥)-2♣/♦/♥ natural and limited, use methods as after a Standard American (1♠)-2♣/D/♥

(1♥)-2♠ hearts and a minor, use methods as after a Standard American (1♠)-2♠

(1♥)-2NT minors, use methods as after a Standard American (1♠)-2NT

(1♥)-3♣/♦/♥ natural with a long suit and weak hand, use methods as after a Standard American (1♠)-3♣/♦/♥

(1♥)-3♠ stopper asking, usually based upon a source of trick, use methods as after a Standard American (1♠)-3♠

(1♥)-DBL takeout of spades, use methods as after a Standard American (1♠)-DBL, special consideration must be given to two situations:

(1♥)-DBL-(P) An advancer who would have passed for penalties after a Standard American 1♠ opening and a 2nd seat double cannot afford to pass without a willingness to defend 1♥X (based upon intervenor's presumed length). A pass by advancer thus shows a penalty pass of 1♠, but also a willingness to defend 1♥X. With a penalty pass of 1♠, but an unwillingness to defend 1♥X, advancer must bid an appropriate number of NT. In all other respects, use the same methods as after a Standard American 1♠ opening.

(1♥)-DBL-(1♠) Since intervenor will get a second chance, advancer is no longer under any obligation to act, so all new suits are semi-constructive (about 6-9). Double is for penalties. In all other respects, the methods are the same as after a Standard American (1♠)-DBL-(P). If (1♥)-DBL-(1♠) is passed back around to intervenor, a second double is also takeout.

(1♥)-P-(1♠) 4th hand acts as if the opening bid were a Standard American 1S on his right.

(1♥)-P-(1♠)-P; P Treat this as (1♠)-P-(P), thus a balancing position. Since 2nd hand had a chance to act over 1♥, he will not have a strong hand. Double is strictly takeout (not a good, single suited hand), 1NT is about 11-14, and new suits show less than a direct overcall would.

There is one additional options for those faced with a 1♥ transfer opening: a 1♠ bid. We recommend this optional treatment:

(1♥)-1♠ 5+ hearts and 5+ in a minor, weak, a sort of mini-Michael's. Advancer can bid any number of hearts to play or bid 1NT to ask intervenor to bid his minor; new minor suit bids are natural and non-forcing; 2♠ is invitational in hearts; 2NT is natural and invitational; game bids are to play. After advancer's 1NT, new suits and raises by advancer are non-forcing, 2♠ is invitational in intervenor's minor and 2NT is natural and invitational.

If responder bids over 1S♠ advancer's NT bids are natural and NF; 2m, 3m and 4m (unbid minor) are pass or correct; and cue-bids (spades or a suit bid naturally by responder) agree hearts.