

South African Texas

This is a variation of Texas transfers that utilises the 4♣ and 4♦ bids instead of 4♦ and 4♥. There are a couple of advantages here: -

- Both the 4♥ and 4♠ bids are available (presumably as natural).
- Partner is less likely to forget.

So if you play South African Texas you have, directly after partner's 1NT opening: -

- 4♣ = transfer to 4♥
- 4♦ = transfer to 4♠
- 4♥ = to play
- 4♠ = to play.

Thus we have three distinct ways to reach our 4 of a major contract: -

- 1) Use a Jacoby transfer and then jump to the 4 level
- 2) Use South African Texas
- 3) Jump to 4 of the major to play.

Having three options certainly may be advantageous, consider these examples. West has opened 1NT: -

West	East	Example 1
♠ AQ6	♠ J109754	Here East is concerned with the possibility that if he transfers with 2♥ (or a 4♥ Texas transfer) then South may double for a lead and ♥'s may be wide open. A South African 4♦ prevents a double of ♥'s by South.
♥ Q95	♥ 76	
♦ AK65	♦ Q	
♣ J52	♣ AQ94	

West	East	Example 2
♠ KJ6	♠ A109754	This time East is again worried about the ♥'s but all's well if he is declarer. Playing South African Texas means that responder can choose who declarer is. A direct 4♠ bid prevents a ♥ through from North.
♥ 952	♥ K6	
♦ AKQ5	♦ 7	
♣ QJ10	♣ A942	

Conclusion?

Having three different options to get to the same 4♥/♠ contract may sometimes be beneficial. One disadvantage is that you lose the 4♣ Gerber bid (it's not really that useful). So is it a good idea?

Probably, but standard Texas is more popular and fairly well established. Quite a dilemma.