Stayman & Transfers   Responses to a Strong (15-17) NT.

I have been asked to describe Stayman and Jacoby transfers. Here is a very simplistic guideline for strong NT players: -

2♣ - Stayman – when you have one (or two) 4 card majors.   **4 card Major**

You usually need invitational values to bid Stayman – so 8+ points
So after 1NT, 2♣ promises a 4 card major and asks opener to bid a 4 card major

After 1NT - 2♣ - 2♦ = no 4 card major
               2♥ = 4 ♥'s (possibly also 4 ♠'s)
               2♠ = 4 ♠'s (denies 4 ♥'s)

When opener has replied to Stayman, responder either bids game,
invites or sometimes goes slamming.   Examples: -

1NT - 2♣ - 2♦ - 2NT = 8 pts, invitational
1NT - 2♣ - 2♥ - 3♥ = 8 pts, invitational (4 ♥'s)
1NT - 2♣ - 2♥ - 2NT = 8 pts, invitational (4 ♠'s)

1NT - 2♣ - 2♦ - 3NT = 9+ pts
1NT - 2♣ - 2♥ - 4♥ = 9+ pts, (4 ♥'s)
1NT - 2♣ - 2♥ - 3NT = 9+ pts, (4 ♠'s)

1NT - 2♣ - 2♥ - 4♣ = 16+ pts, asks for aces

2♦/♥ - Transfer – when you have a 5 card major.   **5 card Major**

You can transfer on any strength (even no points)

After 1NT, 2♦ shows 5 ♥'s and 2♥ shows 5 ♠'s. Opener must complete the transfer
(even if he has just a doubleton) and responder continues as follows: -

With 0-7 points, pass
With 8 points, invite
With 9+ points, force to game
With 16+ points, look for slam   Examples: -

1NT - 2♦ - 2♥ - pass = 0-7 pts, 5+ ♥'s

1NT - 2♦ - 2♥ - 2NT = 8 pts, invitational 5 ♥'s
1NT - 2♦ - 2♥ - 3♥ = 8 pts, invitational, 6+ ♥'s

1NT - 2♦ - 2♥ - 3NT = 9+ pts, opener to pass or bid 4♥
1NT - 2♦ - 2♥ - 4♥ = 9+ pts, opener must pass
1NT - 2♦ - 2♥ - 3♣ = 9+ pts, game forcing, 5 ♥'s and 4 ♣'s

1NT - 2♦ - 2♥ - 4♣ = 16+ pts, asking for aces