

I have a Swiss Migros bank account with shares and bonds. How easy is for me to give them to my brother?

Yes — **it's generally quite easy to give shares or bonds from a Swiss bank account (like at Migros Bank) to your brother**, but there are **two parts to consider: the bank process and the taxes**.



1. The bank transfer itself (usually easy)

Most Swiss banks, including brokers and private banks, can **transfer securities directly from one account to another**. This is often called a **securities transfer or portfolio transfer**.

Typical steps:

1. Your brother must have a **securities account (depot)** with a bank or broker.
2. You ask your bank (e.g., Migros Bank) for a **transfer form**.
3. You specify:
 - the securities (shares, ETFs, bonds)
 - the number of units
 - your brother's bank and account details.
4. The bank transfers them electronically.

Usually:

- It takes **a few days to a couple of weeks**.
- There may be a **small administrative fee** from the bank.

Technically it's similar to moving securities between brokers.



2. Possible taxes (this is the important part)

The **transfer itself is easy**, but the **tax treatment depends on where you live (your canton)** and the relationship between you and your brother.

Gift tax

In Switzerland there is **no federal gift tax**, but **most cantons charge one**.

For **siblings**, gift tax often applies and can be significant.

Typical ranges:

- **About 4% to 25% depending on the canton.**

Example (varies widely):

- Zurich: around **6–15% for siblings**
- Some cantons: **up to ~25%**

Usually:

- The **recipient (your brother)** pays the tax.



Stamp duty

If the transfer goes through a **Swiss securities dealer (a bank)**, there may also be **Swiss securities transfer stamp duty**:

- about **0.15% for Swiss securities**
- about **0.3% for foreign securities**.

This is normally very small compared with gift tax.



3. Important practical points

- The **value used is the market value of the shares** at the time of transfer.
- It's best to have a **simple written gift agreement** (Schenkungsvertrag).
- Both of you should **declare the transfer in your tax returns**.



✓ Summary

Aspect Difficulty

Bank transfer Easy (just a securities transfer form)

Bank fees Usually small

Gift tax Depends on canton; often applies to siblings

Stamp duty Small (0.15–0.3%) if via Swiss bank



💡 Often people avoid gift tax by doing one of these:

- selling the shares and giving **cash gradually**, or
- transferring **over several years** (if the canton has allowances).



✓ If you want, tell me:

- **Which canton you live in**, and
- roughly **how much the shares/bonds are worth**.

I can estimate **the likely tax if you give them to your brother** and whether there's a smarter way to do it.

