

Responding to 1NT Stayman Convention

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Why use Stayman?

It is usually better to play in a Major
than it is to play in NoTrumps

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The Basic Rules for Opening 1NT

- **12 - 14 HCP**
- **Balanced Hand**
 - No singleton or void
 - Only one doubleton
 - No 5-card major

This bid is your **FIRST** choice of opening bid
and tells your partner all there is to know.

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Current Responses to 1NT WITH A BALANCED HAND

- 0 – 10 HCP ... no GAME possible ... PASS
- 11 – 12 HCP ... GAME is possible ... Bid 2NT
- 13+ HCP ... definitely in GAME ... Bid 3NT



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Current Responses to 1NT WITH AN UNBALANCED HAND

- 0 – 10 HCP ... no GAME possible ... Bid your longest suit at the lowest possible level (Weak 2 takeout bid)
- 13+ HCP ... Bid your 5-card suit at the 3-level
- 13+ HCP ... Bid your 6-card major at the 4-level



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But what say ...

- You have 11-12 points?
- Or you both have a fit in a major?
- Or you have two 4-card majors and maybe only 8 HCP?



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We need more options

- It is difficult to make an invitational bid with the “weak 2 takeout” with an unbalanced hand
 - *if you have 11-12 HCP and want to invite opener to game – the rules only cover 13+ HCP*
- We can't ever find a 4 / 4 fit in a Major
 - *the weak take-out rules say you need a 5 card suit*
- And it is better to play in a Major than No Trumps ... agreed??

Stayman gives us more options to get into a better contract.



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SO ... WHY USE STAYMAN?

- To find a 4 – 4 fit in a Major
- To allow Opener to pick their best Major when partner has a weak hand, with both Majors
 - *Stayman asks Opener to describe their hand*

The Stayman convention is an artificial bid of 2♣ in response to a 1NT opener. Partner should alert.



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WHEN TO USE STAYMAN?

- You have 11+ HCP and *at least one* 4-card Major
- *Any* HCP count and you have 5-4 in the *two Majors*

The fewer HCP you have, the more important it is to use Stayman.

The Stayman convention is an artificial bid of 2♣ in response to a 1NT opener



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So you **cannot** use 2♣ as a weak takeout bid anymore if you and your partner are playing Stayman.

The Stayman convention is an artificial bid of 2♣ in response to a 1NT opener

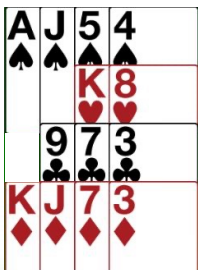
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EXAMPLES ... Stayman or Not?

• Partner opens 1NT

Your bid? 13 HCP

2♣



Likely enough HCP for game ...
Check for a 4-4 spade fit first

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EXAMPLES ... Stayman or Not?

• Partner opens 1NT

Your bid? 14 HCP

2♣



Likely enough HCP for game ...
Check for a 4-4 heart or spade fit first

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EXAMPLES ... Stayman or Not?


• Partner opens 1NT

Your bid? 5 HCP

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | 8 | 7 | 3 | 2 |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ |
| Q | 5 | 4 | 3 | |
| ♥ | ♥ | ♥ | ♥ | |
| | | 9 | 7 | |
| | | ♣ | ♣ | |
| | | 3 | 2 | |
| | | ♦ | ♦ | |

2♣

A weak hand (5 HCP) with both majors
Gives us a chance to find the best place to play



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EXAMPLES ... Stayman or Not?

• Partner opens 1NT

Your bid? 8 HCP

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|
| J | 5 | 4 | 2 | |
| ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | ♠ | |
| | 8 | 6 | | |
| | ♥ | ♥ | | |
| | 9 | 6 | 2 | |
| | ♣ | ♣ | ♣ | |
| A | K | 6 | 4 | |
| ♦ | ♦ | ♦ | ♦ | |

PASS

Even though you have a 4-card major, your
hand is too weak (8 HCP)




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HOW OPENER RESPONDS TO STAYMAN

1NT – 2♣ - ?

- 2♦ - ARTIFICIAL BID - I don't have a 4-card major
- 2♥ - I have 4 hearts (I might also have 4 spades)
- 2♠ - I have 4 spades (I don't have 4 hearts)

2♣ asks ... "Have you got a 4-card Major partner?"
Opener MUST answer the question



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EXAMPLES ... Responding to Stayman

| | |
|---------|---------|
| K 8 7 | A J 5 4 |
| A Q 9 | K 8 |
| J 8 6 4 | 9 7 3 |
| A 8 6 | K J 7 3 |

1NT 2♣ 12HCP

2♦ ← No 4-card major

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EXAMPLES ... Responding to Stayman

| | |
|---------|---------|
| A Q 9 | K 8 7 3 |
| K 8 7 2 | A Q 5 4 |
| J 8 | 9 7 |
| A 8 6 2 | K Q 7 |

1NT 2♣ 14HCP

2♥ ← 4-card heart suit

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WHAT DOES RESPONDER DO NOW?

1NT – 2♣ – 2♦ / 2♥ / 2♠ – ?


- Bid straight to game with a **fit** and game HCP – *eg responder has 13+ points*
- Bid straight to 3NT with **no fit** in the major and game HCP – *eg responder has 13+ points and didn't find a major fit*
- Invite in a major (with a **fit**) – *eg responder has 11-12 pts bid 3 of the major*
- Invite in 2NT (with **no fit**) – *eg responder has 11-12 pts and didn't find a major fit*
- Pass (with a **weak hand** and a **fit**) – *remember the weak responder has 5 / 4 of the majors – so you must have at least 4 hearts*
- Correct to 2♠ with a **weak hand** and **5 spades** – *if opener chose hearts and you have 5 spades, then switch to spades*

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EXAMPLES ... Full bidding (1)

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>♠ K 8 7</p> <p>♥ A Q 9</p> <p>♣ J 8 6 4</p> <p>♦ A 8 6</p> | <p>♠ A J 5 4</p> <p>♥ K 8</p> <p>♣ 9 7 3</p> <p>♦ K J 7 3</p> |
|---|---|

| | |
|-----|----------|
| 1NT | 2♣ 12HCP |
| 2♦ | 2NT |
| 3NT | |




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EXAMPLES ... Full bidding (2)

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>♠ A Q 9</p> <p>♥ K 8 7 2</p> <p>♣ J 8</p> <p>♦ A 8 6 2</p> | <p>♠ K 8 7 3</p> <p>♥ A Q 5 4</p> <p>♣ 9 7</p> <p>♦ K Q 7</p> |
|---|---|

| | |
|-----|-----------|
| 1NT | 2♣ 14 HCP |
| 2♥ | 4♥ |



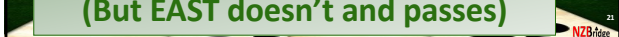
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EXAMPLES ... Full bidding (3)

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>♠ A Q 9</p> <p>♥ K 8 7 2</p> <p>♣ J 8</p> <p>♦ A 8 6 2</p> | <p>♠ K 8 7 3</p> <p>♥ A Q 5</p> <p>♣ Q 7 3 2</p> <p>♦ K Q</p> |
|---|---|

| | |
|-----|-----------|
| 1NT | 2♣ 16 HCP |
| 2♥ | 3NT |

Note ... East must have 4 spades
(But EAST doesn't and passes)



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EXAMPLES ... Full bidding (4)

| | |
|---------|---------|
| A Q 9 2 | K 8 7 3 |
| K 8 7 2 | A Q 5 |
| J 8 | Q 7 3 2 |
| A 8 6 | K Q |

1NT 2♣ 16 HCP
2♥ 3NT
4♠ Convert to spades

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EXAMPLES ... Full bidding (5)

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| A Q 9 | K 8 7 3 2 |
| K 8 7 2 | Q 5 4 3 |
| J 8 2 | 9 7 |
| A 8 6 | 3 2 |

1NT 2♣ 5 HCP
2♥ PASS
Happy to play in hearts

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EXAMPLES ... Full bidding (6)

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| A Q 9 | K 8 7 3 2 |
| K 8 7 | Q 5 4 3 |
| J 8 2 | 9 7 |
| A 8 6 2 | 7 3 |

1NT 2♣ 5 HCP
2♦ 2♠
Pass This is a weak bid

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STAYMAN CAN ALSO BE USED FOR STRONG HANDS

- Use after a 1NT overcall – 1NT overcall is 16-18 pts
 - Invitational hands are now 8+ HCP
- Use over 2NT openings
 - 20 - 22 pts
 - No invitational option



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Stayman – Summary of bidding

| OPENER | RESPONDER | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1NT 12-14 balanced | Weak 0-10HCP 5/4 cover in both majors | Strong 11+HCP At least one major. = 2Clubs | | |
| 2D = No 4-card major | Weak 2D=bid 2 of best suit 2H/S = pass | 11-12 +fit 3 of suit Invite | 13+ Fit 4 of suit Invite | 11-12Nofit 2NT Invite |
| 2H – 4 Hearts (may have 4 spades) | | | | 13+nofit 3NT |
| 2S – 4 Spades | | | | |

With Fit
12-13HCP = pass; 14HCP = Game
With no fit – but with 4 of other major
12-13HCP bid 3 of other major
14 – bid game in other major
Without other major
Enough points for 3NT?



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So that's it – give Stayman a go Play & DISCUSS Stayman

- First eight boards are for Stayman practice
- Notes for these boards will be up on website tomorrow... ENJOY your bridge 😊



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