

## Bidding Stayman with 5-4 in the Major Suits

### Showing 5-4 in the Majors Using Stayman

It is possible to show a 5-4 major suit holding using Stayman. If opener responds in a major suit, you have found your fit. If opener responds with 2♦, denying a 4-card major, simply bid your 5-card major at the appropriate level, in the hope of finding a 5-3 fit. To show invitational strength, bid your 5-card major at the two-level. To force to game, bid your 5-card major at the three-level.

	South	West	North	East	South	
♠	A J 7 6 5		1NT	P	2♣	You are showing a 5-card spade suit with 8 or 9 points. With a minimum hand, opener can pass with 3-card spade support or bid 2NT with only 2-card spade support. With a maximum hand, opener will bid 3NT or 4♠, depending on his spade holding.
♥	K 10 7 4	P	2♦	P	2♠	
♦	9 2					
♣	10 5					

	South	West	North	East	South	
♠	A 9 7 5		1NT	P	2♣	You are showing a 5-card heart suit with at least 10 points. With a doubleton heart, opener will bid 3NT. With three or more hearts, he will bid 4♥.
♥	K J 10 4 3	P	2♦	P	3♥	
♦	Q 7 3					
♣	2					

	South	West	North	East	South	
♠	A J 7 6 5		1NT	P	2♥	It is tempting to use Stayman with this hand, but you are too weak. Whether or not a fit is found, partner is bound to bid too high. Transfer into your 5-card suit and pass.
♥	10 9 7 4	P	2♠	P	P	
♦	9 2					
♣	10 5					

	South	West	North	East	South	
♠	A J 7 6 5		2NT	P	2♣	You are showing a 5-card spade suit with at least 6 points. Over a two no-trump opener, there is no opportunity to make an invitational bid. Stayman is forcing to game. Opener will bid game in spades or no-trump.
♥	J 10 7 4	P	3♦	P	3♠	
♦	9 2					
♣	10 5					

### Opener's Rebid

	North	West	North	East	South	
♠	K 10 7		1NT	P	2♣	Your partner is showing invitational values with a 5-card spade suit. You have a maximum 1 NT opener and 3-card spade support. Bid game in spades.
♥	J 7	P	2♦	P	2♠	
♦	A Q 10 2	P	4♠			
♣	A K 8 6					

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### Fake Stayman

Occasionally, you have to take the law into your own hands and deceive your partner for his own good. One such occasion occurs when your partner opens with 1NT and your hand is very weak with a shortage in clubs. The solution is to “fake” the Stayman convention and then pass whatever partner bids. Even if partner bids 2♦, you shouldn’t be in big trouble. If partner has no four-card major, he is likely to have a few diamonds.

	South	West	North	East	South	
♠	J 9 7 5		1NT	P	2♣	Partner will have a terrible struggle if you pass 1NT. It is unlikely that he can gain entry to your hand in order to try a finesse. In a suit contract, some of your cards will be useful for ruffing.
♥	10 6 5 4	P	2♦/2♥/2♠	P	P	
♦	J 10 9 6					
♣	2					