

THE STAYMAN CONVENTION

A two-club response to an opening bid of 1 NT is artificial and asks opener to bid a four-card major suit. The Stayman bidder must have

- at least 8 high card points
- either one or both major suits
- and some ruffing potential (not 4-3-3-3 shape)

Opener's Rebids

The no-trump opener must make one of three possible rebids:

1. **Two diamonds** denies a four-card major
2. **Two hearts** shows a four-card heart suit and possibly a four-card spade suit
3. **Two spades** shows a four-card spade suit and denies a four-card heart suit

Rebids by Stayman Bidder

West	North	East	South	You are north. The bidding is shown to the left. What do you bid on each of the following hands?
	1 NT		2♥	
P	2♣	P		
P	?			

- | | | | | | |
|----|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|--------|
| 1. | ♠ K 9 5 3 | ♥ 9 2 | ♦ A 8 7 4 | ♣ J 8 7 | (2 NT) |
| 2. | ♠ K 9 5 3 | ♥ 9 2 | ♦ A 8 7 4 | ♣ K 8 7 | (3 NT) |
| 3. | ♠ 9 2 | ♥ K 9 5 3 | ♦ A 8 7 4 | ♣ J 8 7 | (3♥) |
| 4. | ♠ 9 2 | ♥ K 9 5 3 | ♦ A 8 7 4 | ♣ K 8 7 | (4♥) |

West	North	East	South	You are north. The bidding is shown to the left. What do you bid on each of the following hands?
	1 NT		2♣	
P	2♥	P	2NT	
P	?			

- | | | | | | |
|----|------------|-----------|------------|---------|--------|
| 5. | ♠ K 6 | ♥ A J 8 4 | ♦ K 10 7 3 | ♣ A 9 6 | (Pass) |
| 6. | ♠ K 6 | ♥ A J 8 4 | ♦ K 10 7 3 | ♣ A Q 6 | (3 NT) |
| 7. | ♠ K 10 6 4 | ♥ A J 8 4 | ♦ K 10 7 | ♣ A 9 | (3♠) |
| 8. | ♠ K 10 6 4 | ♥ A J 8 4 | ♦ K 10 7 | ♣ A Q | (4♠) |

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Stayman over 2NT

Stayman can be used over an opening bid of 2NT (20 or 21 HCP) but there is less room to manoeuvre. There can be no invitational bid because if a fit is not found, the contract will be 3NT. To use Stayman, you must have enough points for game, i.e. at least 6 HCP.

Stayman after a 2♣ opener

If the bidding goes 2♣ - P - 2♦ - P; 2NT - P - ?, the Stayman bidder must have at least 4 HCP.

Quantitative Raise in NT

1.	North	West	North	East	South	Bid 4NT. This is an invitational bid, not Blackwood. You have a balanced hand with 16 HCP. You want opener to bid 6NT with a maximum and pass with a minimum.
♠	K 8				1 NT	
♥	Q 10 7	P	?			
♦	A K 10 3					
♣	K J 10 5					

2.	North	West	North	East	South	Bid 4 NT. The fact that you have used Stayman does not change the meaning of your 4NT bid. You are denying a heart suit and making an invitational bid in NT. If you had wanted to move toward a slam in spades, you would have used Gerber.
♠	K 8				1 NT	
♥	A K 10 7	P	2♣	P	2♠	
♦	Q 10 3		?			
♣	K J 10 5					

3.	North	West	North	East	South	Bid 4♣ (Gerber). You are telling your partner that you have a fit in spades. You are asking for aces and plan to bid 6♠ if there are no aces missing. Partner might have a minimum NT bid, but a 4-4 fit is usually worth an extra trick.
♠	A K 10 7				1 NT	
♥	K 5	P	2♣	P	2♠	
♦	Q 10 3		?			
♣	K J 10 5					