

STAYMAN (part 1)

Stayman is a *conventional bid*, that is, an artificial bid that doesn't mean what it says !!

There are many conventions in Bridge. The Stayman convention is popular.

Stayman is a conventional response of 2♣ when partner has opened with 1NT.

The bid says nothing about clubs but asks the opening bidder if they hold a four card major.

The opener **must respond** to 2♣ as follows:-

- 2♦ No four-card major
- 2♥ Four hearts (does not deny four spades).
- 2♠ Four spades but not four hearts).

These are the only three responses.

Why bid Stayman ?

The idea is that whenever we have an eight-card fit in a major we would like to play in it, thus it is important to try to find a fit. Stayman helps after a 1NT opening.

When is it good for responder to use Stayman ?

After a 1NT opening bid, when you have at least one four-card major and you have 11 or more points.

There are two basic types of hands

A. Invitational Hands (11-12 points) – game might, or might not, be on.

Our plan is to try to find a fit in a major suit and then invite our partner to game, so we bid Stayman, and over the response we invite to game either in an agreed major or in no-trumps:

e.g. 1NT 2♣

2♥ 3♥

We have found our heart fit. Responder invites opener to bid game (4♥) if they have the maximum 14pts. If not pass.

1NT 2♣

2♦ 2NT

We have no fit in the major suits. Responder invites opener to bid game (3NT) if they have the maximum 14pts. If not pass.

B. Strong Hands (13+ points) – game should be on.

Our plan is to try to find a fit in a major suit and then jump to game, so we bid Stayman and over the response we bid game, either in an agreed major or no trumps.

e.g. 1NT 2♣

2♥ 4♥

We have found our heart fit. Responder bids game (4♥)

1NT 2♣

2♦ 3NT

We have no fit in the major suits. Responder bids game (3NT)