

No Trump Bidding (Stayman and Quantitative Raises)

<div><div><div>♠ Q1096</div><div>♥ 109752</div><div>♦ 87</div><div>♣ A7</div></div><div><div>♠ A754</div><div>♥ K8</div><div>♦ J109</div><div>♣ K1083</div></div><div><div>♠ 83</div><div>♥ A43</div><div>♦ A63</div><div>♣ Q9642</div></div><div><div>♠ KJ2</div><div>♥ QJ6</div><div>♦ KQ542</div><div>♣ J5</div></div></div> <div><div>Board 1 : Dealer North : Love all</div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td>Pass</td><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♦</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>All pass</td><td></td></tr></table><p>Here's one of the weak variants of Stayman. North seeks a major suit fit with a Stayman 2♣ bid but South's 2♦ denies a 4card major. North bids the longer suit knowing that a 5-2 or, better, 5-3 fit has been reached. 2♥ will probably make unless the defence organises a spade ruff for East.</p></div>	West	North	East	South		Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass	2♥	All pass					
West	North	East	South																	
	Pass	Pass	1NT																	
Pass	2♣	Pass	2♦																	
Pass	2♥	All pass																		
<div><div><div>♠ 109532</div><div>♥ A109</div><div>♦ J108</div><div>♣ 87</div></div><div><div>♠ KJ64</div><div>♥ Q532</div><div>♦ 92</div><div>♣ AQ5</div></div><div><div>♠ AQ</div><div>♥ K876</div><div>♦ Q75</div><div>♣ K432</div></div><div><div>♠ 87</div><div>♥ J4</div><div>♦ AK643</div><div>♣ J1096</div></div></div> <div><div>Board 2 : Dealer East : NS vulnerable</div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>2♣</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♥</td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>3♥</td><td>Pass</td><td>4♥</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table><p>Again 2♣ is Stayman, asking for a 4card major, and promises a major unless his next bid is 3♣/3♦ (weak, 6+suit). 2♥ shows four hearts and doesn't deny 4spades (but not held this time). 3♥ confirms the heart fit and is a game try. With a maximum 1NT East raises to game.</p><p>South cashes ♦ A K and switches to ♣ J. Maybe declarer wins ♣ A and leads ♥ 2. Provided North plays low (as second hand) the defenders will come to two trump tricks to beat the contract. Normal contract but unlucky.</p></div>	West	North	East	South			1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass				
West	North	East	South																	
		1NT	Pass																	
2♣	Pass	2♥	Pass																	
3♥	Pass	4♥	All Pass																	
<div><div><div>♠ A874</div><div>♥ QJ6</div><div>♦ Q873</div><div>♣ A7</div></div><div><div>♠ KJ9</div><div>♥ 1098</div><div>♦ A4</div><div>♣ Q9432</div></div><div><div>♠ 10532</div><div>♥ A53</div><div>♦ K</div><div>♣ K10865</div></div><div><div>♠ Q6</div><div>♥ K742</div><div>♦ J109652</div><div>♣ J</div></div></div> <div><div>Board 3 : Dealer South : EW vulnerable</div><table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>Pass</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>2♣</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>2♠</td><td>Pass</td><td>3♦</td></tr><tr><td>All pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table><p>Another weak variant of Stayman. Here South seeks a 4-4 heart fit (to play). When that doesn't arise he bales out into the 6card minor.</p><p>The contract will make with declarer losing, at worst, a spade, a heart and two trumps (Careful, West! Don't crash partner's ♦ K).</p></div>	West	North	East	South				Pass	Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦	All pass			
West	North	East	South																	
			Pass																	
Pass	1NT	Pass	2♣																	
Pass	2♠	Pass	3♦																	
All pass																				

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<div><div><div>♠ 1084</div><div>♥ 76542</div><div>♦ 7643</div><div>♣ 7</div></div><div><div>♠ Q532</div><div>♥ K103</div><div>♦ K2</div><div>♣ KJ82</div></div><div><div>♠ AKJ</div><div>♥ AQJ</div><div>♦ QJ105</div><div>♣ Q105</div></div><div><div>♠ 976</div><div>♥ 98</div><div>♦ A98</div><div>♣ A9643</div></div></div>	<div>Board 4 : Dealer West : All vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div>1NT</div><div>Pass</div><div>4NT</div><div>Pass</div></div><div>All pass</div></div> <div>East has no major suit interest but has an expectation of great things. With his 20 count he's looking to play 6NT if partner has 13-14 points (for a combined 33-34 points). The correct bid is 4NT, invitational to that small slam. West has a minimum and correctly passes. Declarer is missing the two minor suit aces and will make eleven tricks.</div>
<div><div><div>♠ K1087</div><div>♥ A5</div><div>♦ 9853</div><div>♣ A43</div></div><div><div>♠ 32</div><div>♥ 942</div><div>♦ KQJ10</div><div>♣ K1076</div></div><div><div>♠ 654</div><div>♥ QJ108</div><div>♦ A64</div><div>♣ J82</div></div><div><div>♠ AQJ9</div><div>♥ K763</div><div>♦ 72</div><div>♣ Q95</div></div></div>	<div>Board 5 : Dealer North : NS vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div>Pass</div><div>Pass</div><div>Pass</div><div>1NT</div></div><div><div>Pass</div><div>2♣</div><div>Pass</div><div>2♥</div></div><div><div>Pass</div><div>2♠</div><div>All Pass</div><div></div></div></div> <div>A good example of using Stayman, finding a fit, and staying at a low level when game values aren't there. In response to Stayman 2♣ South shows hearts (not denying spades) and North follows up with 2♠ showing 4spades and an invitational hand. South is minimum but has 4spades so is happy to pass. If South didn't have spade support he could bid 2NT (minimum) or 3NT (maximum). With a maximum and 4spades he'd blast the game (or "re-invite" with a 3♠ bid – a buck passer's bid).</div> <div>North shouldn't draw trumps too early – by not doing that, he'll be able to ruff two hearts and will make six trumps, two hearts and ♣A. This line guarantees the overtrick.</div>
<div><div><div>♠ 654</div><div>♥ J108</div><div>♦ 654</div><div>♣ J862</div></div><div><div>♠ K1087</div><div>♥ A5</div><div>♦ A983</div><div>♣ A43</div></div><div><div>♠ AQJ9</div><div>♥ Q763</div><div>♦ 72</div><div>♣ K95</div></div><div><div>♠ 32</div><div>♥ K9 42</div><div>♦ KQJ10</div><div>♣ Q107</div></div></div>	<div>Board 6 : Dealer East : EW vulnerable</div> <div><div><div>West</div><div>North</div><div>East</div><div>South</div></div><div><div></div><div></div><div>1NT</div><div>Pass</div></div><div><div>2♣</div><div>Pass</div><div>2♥</div><div>Pass</div></div><div><div>3NT</div><div>Pass</div><div>4♠</div><div>All Pass</div></div></div> <div>West uses Stayman and jump to 3NT to show a game-going hand with 4spades (all invitational, or better, hands that use Stayman promise at least one major). With this knowledge East is happy to convert to the spade game confident that a 4-4 fit has been reached.</div> <div>South leads ♦K. Declarer can duck, win the second diamond and play ace and another heart. ♥Q loses but East can win, say, the trump return, cash the top clubs and cross ruff for ten tricks.</div>

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<div>♠KQ8</div> <div>♥AJ</div> <div>♦AQJ9</div> <div>♣AK63</div> <div>♠107642</div> <div>♥Q52</div> <div>♦8432</div> <div>♣2</div> <div>♠95</div> <div>♥1098763</div> <div>♦76</div> <div>♣1098</div> <div>♠AJ3</div> <div>♥K4</div> <div>♦K105</div> <div>♣QJ754</div>	<div>Board 7 : Dealer South : All vulnerable</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1N</td></tr><tr><td>Pass</td><td>5N</td><td>Pass</td><td>7N</td></tr><tr><td>All Pass</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr></table> <div>As with board 4 responder has no major suit game interest but has high ambitions. With 24 points North is interested in a grand slam if partner has a maximum hand (for a combined [37]38 points). The way to invite to the seven level is to bid 5NT. This is forcing and opener bids 6NT with a minimum and 7NT with a maximum. Here South obliges and the grand slam is reached very quickly.</div> <div>There is nothing to the play – in fact there are 14 tricks.</div>	West	North	East	South				1N	Pass	5N	Pass	7N	All Pass			
West	North	East	South														
			1N														
Pass	5N	Pass	7N														
All Pass																	
<div>♠10</div> <div>♥9432</div> <div>♦32</div> <div>♣QJ9654</div> <div>♠J654</div> <div>♥AQJ6</div> <div>♦J65</div> <div>♣A3</div> <div>♠Q32</div> <div>♥5</div> <div>♦AKQ87</div> <div>♣K872</div> <div>♠AK987</div> <div>♥K1087</div> <div>♦1094</div> <div>♣10</div>	<div>Board 8 : Dealer West : Love all</div> <table><tr><th>West</th><th>North</th><th>East</th><th>South</th></tr><tr><td>1NT</td><td>Pass</td><td>3NT</td><td>All Pass</td></tr></table> <div>Wrongly bid this could be an example of Stayman Abuse. It would not be sensible for East to use Stayman to check if West has four hearts before bidding 3NT. If he does, West will respond 2♥, East will jump to 3NT and West (assuming that East has four spades) will correct to 4♠. The correct auction is as above where East knows that there is a heart weakness but hopes West can provide sufficient cover there.</div> <div>North leads ♣Q. Declarer can win ♣K and finesse ♥J for his ninth trick. Even if the finesse had failed he would make game as ♥Q is promoted (there’s always a spade stop though it wouldn’t be sensible to broach the suit).</div>	West	North	East	South	1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass								
West	North	East	South														
1NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass														