

Handout for "Why Bother with Puppet Stayman?"

By: June Byrne

You can open NT with five card majors:

1N-3C; 2N-3C; 2C-2D-2N-3C are all NT auctions and Puppet can be used in all of them. Using Puppet says you have enough points for game. All of the bids are alertable.

You have a better chance of playing the hand if you open NT than if you don't. This gets the strong hand as declarer. You have excellent bidding tools to get to the right contract from the right side.

Yes: KJxxx QJx Ax KJx JTxx AKxxx Kxx AQ

Yes: AJ xxxx KQJxx KJ KQxx KQxx xx AQx

No: KJxxx QJxx Ax KQ JTxx AKxxx Kx AQ Not with a 5 card major and a 4 card side suit.

Yes: 2N: KQJxx KQx AJ KJx

Yes: 2C -2D-2N AKQxx KQx AQ Kxx

NO: If you bid 2C-2D-2S, you should have a six card suit. AKQxxx AX AQ KJx

How Puppet Stayman works:

1N 2C = Normal Stayman. If you have both majors you should bid hearts.

1N 3C = 3S [I have 5 Spades]

3H [I have 5 hearts]

3D [I have one or two 4 card majors but I don't have a 5 card major.]

3N [No 5 or 4 card major suit]

How do you rebid after you started Puppet Stayman:

If partner bids anything except 3D, you will immediately be able to place the contract.

If partner bids 3D, if you don't have a 4 card major, just bid 3N. If you have two majors, bid 4D to ask partner to bid his major. If you have one four card major, you bid the one you don't have. This again gets the strong hand to play the contract. Partner can now place the contract.

When do you use Puppet Stayman instead of regular Stayman:

You can only use Puppet Stayman if you have enough for game because it commits to you to game. You can't stop once you start.

You can use Puppet when you have one or two four card majors. You can use Puppet with a hand that is 4-3, 4-4. 3-3, 3-2 in the majors.

QJx xx KQJxx Qxx Three NT is probably fine but if opener has 5 spades, it will play better in 4 Spades.

Handout for “Why Bother with Puppet Stayman?” (cont’d)

Alerts:

Three Clubs and all of the responses and rebids are alertable except a later pass.

1N-----3C [Alert]

3D [Alert]- 3H [Alert]

3NT [Alert] Pass

Practice: What do you bid over 1N ? 2NT? 2C ?

xxxx Kxx Ax Qtx xx Qxxx JTxx Kxx JTxx AQJxx Qxx

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