

# **Lesson 23**

## **The *Stayman* Convention**

**Book Pages 115-117 section 7.1 and 7.2**

# Objectives for Lesson 23

- Recap: the *weak* 1NT *opening bid*
- Why do we prefer to *play* in a *major suit fit*
- What is a *conventional bid*
- How to continue the *bidding*
- When to use *Stayman*
- *Stayman* extensions - if time available...

# What is your *opening bid*?

Hand 1 (13 HCPs)

♠ Q 9 8 2

♥ 10 4 2

♦ K J 10

♣ A Q J

1NT

Hand 2 (13 HCPs)

♠ A J 10 5

♥ K J 8 2

♦ A 8

♣ 10 6 3

1NT

Hand 3 (12 HCPs)

♠ 10 7 4 3 2

♥ A K

♦ Q J 5

♣ Q 7 3

1NT

# Recap: the *weak 1NT opening bid*

12-14 *HCPs*

*A balanced hand:*

- No *voids*
- No *singletons*
- No more than one *doubleton*
- No *six-card suit*
- Could have a *5-card major*

*Not a forcing-bid*

Only three *hand shapes*:

- 5-3-3-2
- 4-4-3-2
- 4-3-3-3

*A limit bid:*

- *3-point range: 12 13 14*

*Opener will only rebid if asked a question by partner*

# What is your *opening bid*?

Hand 1 (11 HCPs)

♠ Q 9 8 2

♥ 10 4 2

♦ K J 10

♣ A J 10

Pass

Hand 2 (15 HCPs)

♠ A J 10 5

♥ K J 8 2

♦ A 8

♣ Q 6 3

1♥

Hand 3 (12 HCPs)

♠ A K Q 7 4

♥ 10 9

♦ J 8 5

♣ Q 7 3

1♠

**Card play...**

**Play in 3NT by West**

# *Play this hand in 3NT by West*

<div>D</div> <div>1</div>	<div>N North</div> <div>♠ 1098</div> <div>♥ K10962</div> <div>♦ 2</div> <div>♣ 10875</div>	
<div>W West</div> <div>♠ AK76</div> <div>♥ J4</div> <div>♦ AQ96</div> <div>♣ 964</div>		<div>E East</div> <div>♠ QJ54</div> <div>♥ 875</div> <div>♦ KJ7</div> <div>♣ AKQ</div>
	<div>S South</div> <div>♠ 32</div> <div>♥ AQ3</div> <div>♦ 108543</div> <div>♣ J32</div>	<div>3NT W</div> <div>NS: 0 EW: 0</div>

Now *play* the same *hand* in 4♠ by West

D 2		N North	
		♠ 1098	
		♥ K10962	
		♦ 2	
		♣ 10875	
W West		E East	
♠ AK76		♠ QJ54	
♥ J4		♥ 875	
♦ AQ96		♦ KJ7	
♣ 964		♣ AKQ	
	S South		
	♠ 32		
	♥ AQ3		
	♦ 108543		
	♣ J32		
		4♠ W	NS: 0 EW: 0



# Why play in a *major suit fit*?

*Game in a major suit:*

*Control*

*Extra winners from ruffing*

*30 points per trick*

*Game is 10 tricks*

$$30+30+30+30 + 300 = 420$$

*Game in no trumps:*

*Could lose control*

*No ruffing opportunities*

*40 then 30 points per trick*

*Game is 9 tricks*

$$40+30+30 + 300 = 400$$

# What do these *bids* show?

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

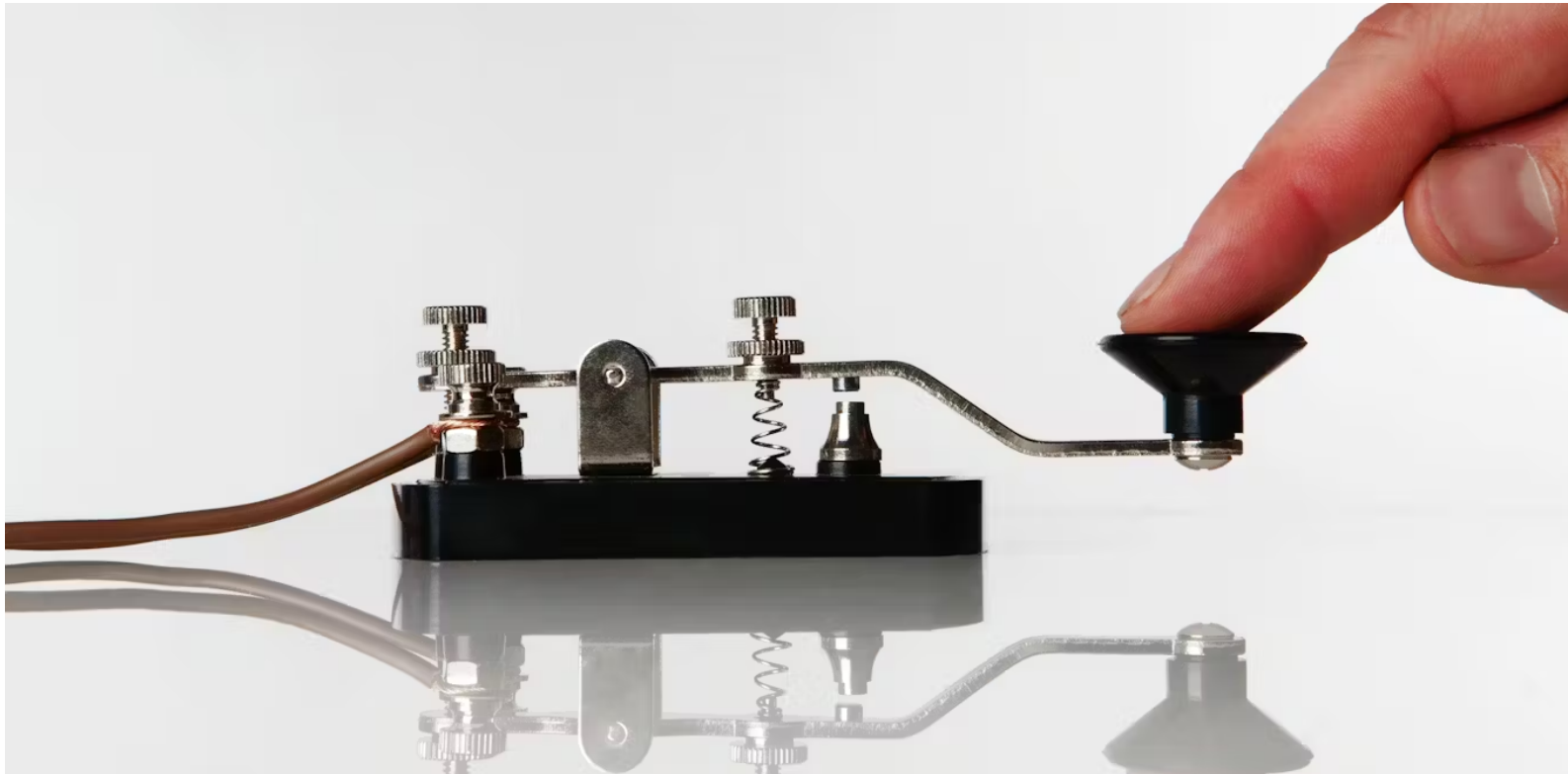
***Friday's rules...***  
**Not playing *transfers***

# What do these bids show?

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♣	

# What is a *conventional bid*?

A *conventional bid* does not mean what it says



# Etiquette

**PASS**

**1NT**

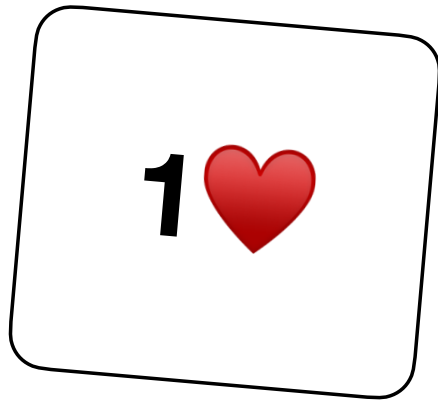
"Stayman"

**PASS**

**2♣**

"12-14"

# Etiquette



# The *Stayman Convention*

*A bid of 2♣ in response to partner's opening bid of 1NT*

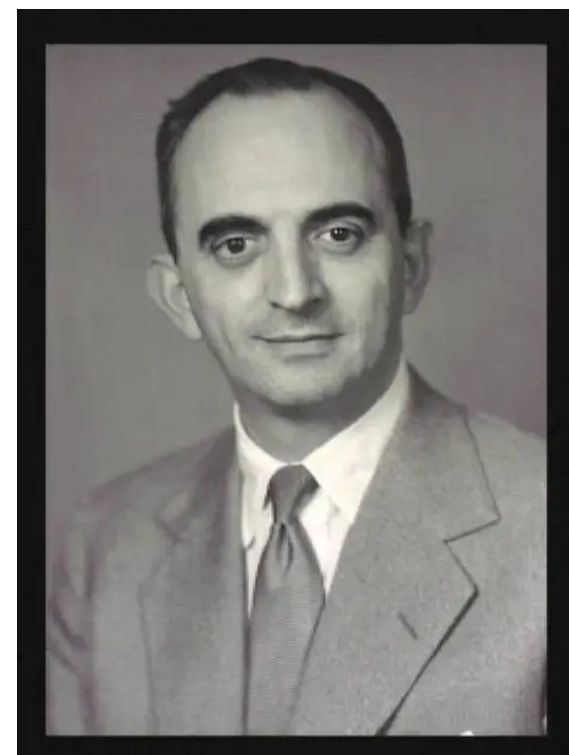
*Tells opener you hold a 4-card major*

*Asks opener if they have a 4-card major*

*Hoping to find a 4-4 major suit fit*

*A **forcing** bid - the opener cannot pass*

*It does not mean clubs - not a natural bid\**



Sam Stayman - American tournament bridge player from the 1940s into the 1980s  
His partner invented the convention and named it after Stayman, who brought it into popular use



## ***Responses to 1NT-2♣: “Have a four-card Major?”***

***Forcing bid*** - opener must answer the question

With one of the following three *responses*:

2♦ - No, I don't have any *four-card major*

2♥ - Yes, I have four+ hearts, says nothing about spades

2♠ - Yes, I have four+ spades, I do not have four hearts

There are no other *responses*

# Example 1: *Partner opens 1NT*

**WEST** (14 HCPs)

♠ A K 7 6

♥ J 4

♦ A Q 9 6

♣ 9 6 4

**EAST** (16 HCPs)

♠ Q J 5 4

♥ 8 7 5

♦ K J 7

♣ A K Q

WEST	EAST
1NT	2♣
2♠	4♠

1NT = 12-14 *HCPs*

2♣ = *Four-card major?*

2♠ = Yes, 4+ spades

4♠ = *A fit & game points*

East could easily *bid* 3NT with 16 *points* opposite opener's minimum of 12 *points*...

## Example 2: *Partner opens 1NT*

**WEST** (14 HCPs)

♠ K 6 2

♥ A K J 4

♦ Q 9 6

♣ J 6 4

**EAST** (16 HCPs)

♠ Q J 5 4

♥ 8 7 5

♦ K J 7

♣ A K Q

WEST	EAST
1NT	2♣
2♥	3NT

1NT = 12-14 *HCPs*

2♣ = *Four-card major?*

2♥ = Yes, 4+ spades

3NT = No *fit* but *game points*

Again, East could easily *bid* 3NT with 16 *points* opposite *opener's* minimum of 12 *points*... but if we *bid Stayman* we're looking for a possible 8-card *fit* first

## Example 3: *Partner opens 1NT*

**WEST** (13 HCPs)

♠ A K 7

♥ 9 4 2

♦ A Q 9 6

♣ 9 6 4

**EAST** (16 HCPs)

♠ Q J 5 4

♥ 8 7 5

♦ K J 7

♣ A K Q

WEST	EAST
1NT	2♣
2♦	3NT

1NT = 12-14 *HCPs*

2♣ = *Four-card major?*

2♦ = No

3NT = Okay, but *game points*

Again, East could easily *bid* 3NT with 16 *points* opposite *opener's* minimum of 12 *points*... This is why *Stayman* is a ***forcing*** *bid* - we must not lose out on a *game contract*

## Example 4: *Partner opens 1NT*

**WEST** (14 HCPs)

♠ A K 7 6

♥ Q J 4 2

♦ A 9 8

♣ 9 6

**EAST** (15 HCPs)

♠ Q 10 5

♥ K 7 5 3

♦ J 10 2

♣ A K Q

WEST	EAST
1NT	2♣
2♥*	4♥

1NT = 12-14 *HCPs*

2♣ = *Four-card major?*

2♥ = Yes, four+ hearts

4♥ = *A fit & game points*

\* With both *bid* hearts first

## Example 5: *Partner opens 1NT*

**WEST** (14 HCPs)

♠ A K 7

♥ J 4 2

♦ A Q 9 6

♣ 9 6 4

**EAST** (11 HCPs)

♠ Q J 5 4

♥ 8 7 5

♦ K 10 7

♣ K Q 10

WEST	EAST
1NT	2♣
2♦	2NT
3NT	Pass

1NT = 12-14 *HCPs*

2♣ = *Four-card major?*

2♦ = No

2NT = Do you have 14?

3NT = Yes, *game points*

## Example 5 without *Stayman*: Partner opens 1NT

**WEST** (14 HCPs)

♠ A K 7

♥ J 4 2

♦ A Q 9 6

♣ 9 6 4

**EAST** (11 HCPs)

♠ Q J 5 4

♥ 8 7 5

♦ K 10 7

♣ K Q 10

WEST	EAST
1NT	2NT
3NT	

1NT = 12-14 *HCPs*

2NT = Do you have 14?

3NT = Yes, *game points*

## Example 6: *Partner opens 1NT*

**WEST** (14 HCPs)

♠ A K 7 6

♥ Q J 4 2

♦ A 9 8

♣ 9 6

**EAST** (12 HCPs)

♠ Q 10 5

♥ K 7 5 3

♦ J 10 2

♣ A Q 10

WEST	EAST
1NT	2♣
2♥*	3♥
4♥	Pass

1NT = 12-14 *HCPs*

2♣ = *Four-card major?*

2♥ = Yes, four+ hearts

3♥ = *A fit & invitation...*

4♥ = *Invitation accepted!*



## Example 7: *Partner opens 1NT*

**WEST** (13 HCPs)

♠ A Q 7

♥ J 4 2

♦ A Q 9 6

♣ 9 6 4

**EAST** (12 HCPs\*)

♠ J 10 5 4

♥ K 10 7 5

♦ K 10 7

♣ K Q

WEST	EAST
1NT	2♣
2♦	2NT
Pass	

1NT = 12-14 *HCPs*

2♣ = *Four-card major?*

2♦ = No

2NT = Do you have 14?

Pass = No

# Summary: How to continue the *bidding*

*Responder's continuations*

If no *major suit* is found:

- *Bid 2NT - invite with 11-12*
- *Bid 3NT - bid game with 13-18*

If major suit fit is found:

- *Bid 3♥ or 3♠ - invite with 11-12*
- *Bid 4♥ or 4♠ - game with 13-18*

**When to use *Stayman***

## ***Partner opens 1NT - your response?***

Hand 1 (15 HCPs)

♠ Q J 7 3

♥ A K 5 2

♦ K 4

♣ Q 9 8

2♣

Both 4-card majors  
& game (13-18)

Hand 2 (12 HCPs)

♠ A 10 7 5

♥ K J 8 7

♦ J 8 7

♣ K 9

2♣

Both 4-card majors  
& invitational (11-12)

Hand 3 (12 HCPs)

♠ A 8 7 6

♥ K J 8

♦ J 7 5 4

♣ K 9

2♣

One 4-card major  
& invitational (11-12)

## Partner opens 1NT - your response?

Hand 4 (7 HCPs)

♠ J 9 7 3

♥ A 8 5 2

♦ 8 4

♣ Q 9 8

**Pass**

Too weak, what'd you do after 2♦?

Hand 5 (15 HCPs)

♠ A 10 5

♥ K J 8

♦ A 8 7 5 3

♣ K 9

**3NT**

No 4-card major, game values for 3NT

Hand 6 (9 HCPs)

♠ A 6

♥ K J 8 7 4 2

♦ 8 4

♣ J 9 7

**2♥**

Weak-takeout into hearts, forcing Pass

## Partner opens 1NT - your response?

Hand 7 (15 HCPs)

♠ K 9 7

♥ A Q 5 2

♦ K 4

♣ Q J 8 6

2♣

Strong enough, then  
3NT if no *fit* found

Hand 8 (15 HCPs)

♠ A 10 7 5 3

♥ K J 8

♦ A 8 7

♣ K 9

3♠

*Forcing bid*, waiting to  
find a 5-3 *fit* or 3NT

Hand 9 (12 HCPs)

♠ A 6

♥ K J 8

♦ A 7 5 4

♣ 10 9 7 5

2NT

*Balanced invite*, asking:  
"if 14 HCPs, *bid* 3NT"

# Summary: When to use *Stayman*

*Partner has opened the bidding with 1NT*

and

*Responder has at least an invitational hand (11 or more HCP)*

and

*Responder has at least one 4-card major*

and

*Responder has a rebid available if a major suit fit is not found*

**Don't lose a *spade fit***





# What do these *bids* show?

WEST	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
4♠	All pass		

3NT = *game values* (13-18) and four+ spades

4♠ = I also have four+ spades - we have a spade *fit* and *game*!

# What do these *bids* show?

<b>WEST</b>	<b>North</b>	<b>East</b>	<b>South</b>
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
3♠	All pass		

2NT = *invitation values* (11-12) and four+ spades

3♠ = I also have four+ spades - we have a spade *fit* but not *game*

# What do these *bids* show?

WEST	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
4♠	All pass		

2NT = *invitation values* (11-12) and four+ spades

4♠ = I also have four+ spades - we have a spade *fit* and *game*!

# Example: What is the *bidding* sequence?

**WEST** (14 HCPs)

♠ A Q 8 3

♥ K J 6 4

♦ A 6 4

♣ 8 2

**EAST** (13 HCPs)

♠ K 10 9 5

♥ A 5

♦ K Q J 3

♣ 10 7 3

WEST	EAST
1NT	2♣
2♥	3NT
4♠	Pass

**Card play...**

## Quiz - Hands 1-4 only

Work out how you think the bidding should go

Dealer alternates between East/West - North/South pass throughout

# Quiz - Hand 1

**WEST** (14 HCPs)

♠ A 2

♥ K Q J 3

♦ K 7 4

♣ J 9 5 3

**EAST** (13 HCPs)

♠ 9 7 5

♥ A 10 8 5

♦ A 2

♣ K Q 8 7

WEST	EAST
1NT	2♣
2♥	4♥
Pass	

3NT could go down on a spade *lead*;  
4♥ should be safe.

# Quiz - Hand 2

WEST (12 HCPs)

♠ K 9 8 3

♥ A Q 3

♦ K 8

♣ 9 7 5 2

**EAST** (14 HCPs)

♠ A 5

♥ K 10 5 4

♦ A 9 5 2

♣ Q J 10

WEST	EAST
	1NT
2♣	2♥
2NT	3NT

This time the search for a *fit* is unsuccessful; the final *contract* could have been reached without *Stayman*.



# Quiz - Hand 3

**WEST** (13 HCPs)

♠ K 9 6 3

♥ A Q 8 7

♦ K 5 4

♣ J 7

**EAST** (13 HCPs)

♠ A Q 5 2

♥ K J 6

♦ Q J 9 3

♣ 8 4

WEST	EAST
1NT	2♣
2♥	3NT
4♠	

With both *majors* West shows the hearts in *response* to *Stayman*. East must have spades to *bid* like this, else why use *Stayman*? So West converts 3NT to 4♠, a far superior *contract*.

# Quiz - Hand 4

WEST (10 HCPs)

♠ Q 3

♥ 10 9 6 3

♦ Q 7 4 2

♣ A Q 9

**EAST** (12 HCPs)

♠ K 7 5 4

♥ Q J 4

♦ K 9 8

♣ K 10 4

WEST	EAST
	1NT
Pass	

With a *balanced* 10 points West is not strong enough to *raise* to 2NT, so it would be unwise to use *Stayman*. 1NT is quite high enough on these hands.

# Objectives for Lesson 23

- Recap - the 1NT *opening bid*
- Why do we prefer to *play* in a *major suit fit*
- What is a *conventional bid*
- How to continue the *bidding*
- When to use *Stayman*
- **When to use *Stayman* - extension**

# Partner opens 1NT - your bid?

**WEST** (12-14 HCPs)      **EAST** (8 HCPs)

♠ A 10 4 2

♥ K J 10 4 2

♦ 8 6 3

♣ 2

WEST	EAST
1NT	2♣
2♠	Pass

*Bid 2♥ if partner bids 2♦ - shows 5 hearts and 4 spades and a weak hand*

*Pass if partner bids 2♥ or 2♠ - you have found a good fit and have no interest in going to a game contract*

# Partner opens 1NT - your bid?

**WEST** (12-14 HCPs)      **EAST** (6 HCPs)

♠ J 10 8 6

♥ Q 8 2

♦ Q J 8 6 2

♣ 2

WEST	EAST
1NT	2♣
2♠	Pass

*Pass if partner bids 2♦ - opener has at least two, play on a part score in your best fitting suit*

*Pass if partner bids 2♥ and hope the 4-3 fit plays better than 1NT*

*Pass if partner bids 2♠ - you have found a 4-4 fit and want to stay in a part score contract*

# Partner opens 1NT - your bid?

**WEST** (12-14 HCPs)

**EAST** (1 HCPs)

♠ 8

♥ 4 2

♦ J 8 2

♣ 10 9 7 6 4 3 2

WEST	EAST
1NT	2♣
2♠	3♣

Whatever *opener* replies, bid 3♣, which is a *weak-takeout* into clubs

You have a minimum of 8 club cards between the two *hands*

# Partner opens 1NT - your bid?

**WEST** (12-14 HCPs)      **EAST** (6 HCPs)

♠ Q 9 7 4

♥ 3 2

♦ 8

♣ K J 7 5 3 2

WEST	EAST
1NT	2♣
2♠	Pass

*Bid 3♣ if partner bids 2♦ or 2♥, as with the previous hand, this is a weak-takeout into clubs*

*Pass if partner bids 2♠ - you have luckily found a spade fit so don't need to show your club suit*

# **Summary: *Weak Stayman* - hand types?**

*Weak hand* with at least 5-4 in the *majors*

or

*Weak hand* with *long* diamonds and *support* for both *majors*

or

*Weak hand* with at least six clubs, a *weak* clubs *take-out*

*Weak Stayman* or *Rescue Stayman* or *Garbage Stayman*



# Review

*Stayman is a convention bid*

Use to find a *major suit fit* after a 1NT opening

Use with *invitational* (11) or *strong hands* (12+)

Opener has only three possible *rebids*: 2♦ or 2♥ or 2♠

*Extension - Stayman with weak hands - just be careful!*

Other examples of *Stayman...* (if we have time)

- these will need pre-arranged *partnership agreements...*

## **Stayman over partner's 2NT opening bid**

*Partner's 2NT opening bid promises 20-22 HCPs and a balanced hand*

- *Opener might have one or both four-card majors*

*With one or both four-card majors you might try to find a fit*

- *To respond 3♣ with a four-card major you need 5+ HCPs*
- *If partner rebids 3♦ or the wrong four-card major, you need enough points to rebid 3NT*

# Etiquette

**PASS**

**2NT**

"Stayman"

**PASS**

**3♣**

"20-22"

## ***Stayman after partner's 1NT overcall***

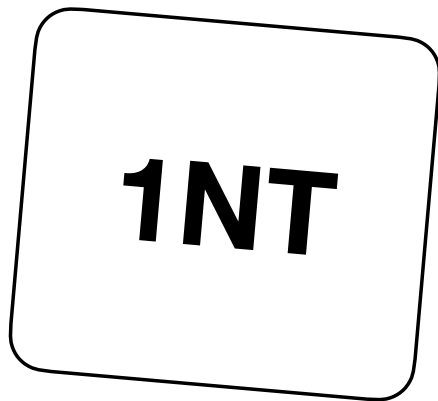
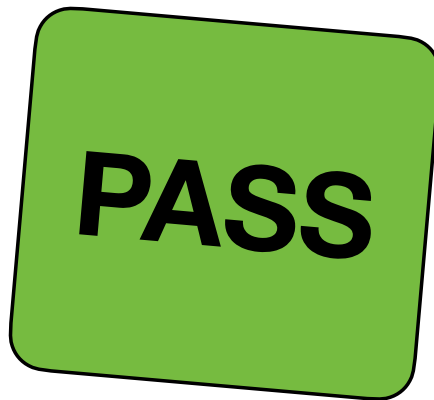
*Partner's 1NT overcall promises 16-18 HCPs with stopper/s in the opponent's suit*

- *Opener might have one or both four-card majors*

*With one or both four-card majors you might try to find a fit*

- *To respond 2♣ with a four-card major you need 8+ HCPs*
- *If partner rebids 2♦ or the wrong four-card major, you need enough points to rebid 2NT (8) or 3NT (9+)*

# Etiquette



## Quiz - Hands 5-6

Work out how you think the bidding should go

Dealer alternates between East/West - North/South pass throughout

# Quiz - Hand 5

**WEST** (13 HCPs)

♠ K Q 5

♥ J 6 4

♦ A 5 3 2

♣ Q J 3

**EAST** (6 HCPs)

♠ 6 4 3 2

♥ 8

♦ K 9

♣ K 7 6 5 4 2

WEST	EAST
1NT	2♣
2♦	3♣
Pass	

East does not want to play in 1NT. With *Stayman*, you cannot sign off in 2♣, but 3♣ should be a perfectly playable *contract*. If West had shown four spades in *response* to *Stayman* East could have passed.

# Quiz - Hand 6

WEST (12 HCPs)

♠ 5 4

♥ A Q J 8 4

♦ 5 4

♣ A J 9 3

**EAST** (14 HCPs)

♠ A J

♥ 10 7 3

♦ A K 7 6

♣ Q 10 4 2

WEST	EAST
	1NT
3♥	4♥
Pass	

With five hearts and enough for *game*  
West makes the *natural response*, not  
*Stayman*.



# Quiz - Hand 7

**WEST** (12 HCPs)

♠ K 7 6 5

♥ Q J 6 4

♦ A Q 9

♣ 9 8

**EAST** (11 HCPs)

♠ Q 4

♥ K 10 3 2

♦ J 7 5 3

♣ A J 10

WEST	EAST
1NT	2♣
2♥	3♥
Pass	

East finds a *fit* and *invites game* but West, with a *minimum*, declines.

# Quiz - Hand 8

WEST (9 HCPs)

♠ Q J 8 7

♥ 8

♦ A 5

♣ Q 10 9 8 3 2

**EAST** (14 HCPs)

♠ A K 10 5

♥ A 6 3

♦ 9 7 6 4

♣ K 7

WEST	EAST
	1NT
2♣	2♠
3♠	4♠

West was planning to *sign off* in 3♣. However, when the *fit* comes to light, *game* is not out of the question. East is happy to go on with a maximum no trump and excellent top cards.

**Card play...**