

The Stayman Convention

Stayman Convention - One of the most popular conventions used by bridge players, using a 2C response to partner's 1NT or 2NT opening bid to locate a major suit fit.

Sam Stayman's tournament partner George Rapee introduced the artificial 2C response to partner's 1NT opener. However, George was less interested in popularizing the conventional treatment than enjoying the benefits of its use, generously allowing Stayman its namesake in 1945. Throughout the years, Stayman has been one of the top three conventions in the game of bridge.

Over Opener's 1NT opening bid, responder generally uses the 2C response to help find a 4-4 major suit fit – this normally means responder will have invitational plus values.



Picture of Sam Stayman

Note 1: Stayman is not recommended with a 4-3-3-3 distribution since dummy has no ruffing power.

Note 2: This discussion covers Non Forcing Stayman, and assuming opener's 1NT range is 15-17 points.

<u>1NT</u>	<u>Game Points Needed</u>	<u>Responder's minimum invitational points</u>
15-17	25	8-9

In response to 1NT - 2C Stayman, opener must make one of 3 rebids:

Case	Example	Description
A.	1NT - 2C; 2D	No four card major
B.	1NT - 2C; 2H	Promising a 4 card Heart fit; with both 4 card majors, first bid 2H "up the line"
C.	1NT - 2C; 2S	Promising a 4 card Spade fit, denying 4 Hearts