

Stayman Variations

Smolen

Garbage Stayman

Crawling Stayman

The Smolen Convention

Game Force With 5-4 or 4-5
In the Major Suits

The Basics

- Smolen is a convention that allows responder to show a game-forcing 5-4 or 4-5 major suits holding after partner opens 1 no trump.
- It is on only when responder has 10 or more points, after a 1 no trump opening.

Here's a Basic Example Hand

♠ K J 5 4 2

♥ A 9 7 3

♦ Q 7 5

♣ 4

- Partner opens 1 no trump.
- Responder starts a Stayman sequence.
- If opener bids a major, responder bids game in that suit.
- If opener bids 2 ♦, this hand is a problem.

Smolen Solves the Problem

♠ K J 5 4 2

♥ A 9 7 3

♦ Q 7 5

♣ 4

- After 1 no trump....2 ♣ ...
2 ♦, responder bids 3 ♥.
- A jump bid in ♥, the 4-
card major, tells partner
that you have 5 spades and
4 hearts.

North	East	South	West
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1nt	pass	2 ♣	pass
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2 ♦	pass	3 ♥	pass
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Opener bids 3 nt or 4 ♠, depending on the holding.

Smolen Works With an Opposite Holding in the Majors

♠ K J 5 4

♥ A 9 7 5 3

♦ Q 7 5

♣ 4

- After 1 no trump....2 ♣ ...
2 ♦, responder bids 3 ♠,
telling partner he has 5 ♥
and 4 ♠ .

North	East	South	West
1nt	pass	2 ♣	pass
2 ♦	pass	3 ♠	pass
4 ♥	all pass		

Opener's hand

♠ Q 10

♥ K J 6

♦ A K 6 3

♣ Q 10 9 8

Sample Bidding Sequence

North	East	South	West	Opener's hand
1nt	pass	2 ♣ ¹	pass	♠ Q J
2 ♦ ²	pass	3 ♠ ³	pass	♥ K J 9
4 ♥ ⁴	all pass.			♦ K Q 7 5
				♣ Q J 10 8

1. Do you have a 4-card major?
2. No I don't.
3. Okay, I have 5 hearts and 4 spades.
4. Good , I have 3 hearts.

Sample Bidding Sequence

North	East	South	West	Opener's hand
1nt	pass	2 ♣ ¹	pass	♠ K J
2 ♦ ²	pass	3 ♥ ³	pass	♥ K J 9
3n ⁴	all pass.			♦ A Q 7 5
				♣ Q J 10 8

1. Do you have a 4-card major?
2. No I don't.
3. Okay, I have 5 spades and 4 hearts.
4. I have only 2 spades.

Garbage Stayman



Garbage Stayman

- Garbage Stayman allows responder to sign off in a two level suit, with a weak 3- suited hand, short in clubs.
- It is on only with 0-7 points and only a few distributions:
 - 4-4-4-1 short club suit.
 - 4-4-5-0 short club suit.
 - 4-3-5-1 short club suit.
 - 3-4-5-1 short club suit

How Garbage Stayman Works

- Partner opens 1 no trump....
- The convention starts as regular Stayman.
- Responder, with 7 or fewer points, bids two clubs and **passes what ever partner bids.**

Note: with a 5 card major you will transfer and pass.

Garbage Stayman Examples

♠ K J 5 4

♥ 9 7 5 3

♦ Q 7 5 3

♣ 4

♠ K J 4

♥ 9 7 5 3

♦ Q 9 7 5 3

♣ 4

♠ K J 5 4

♥ 7 5 3

♦ Q 9 7 5 3

♣ 4

North

1nt

(2 ♦, 2 ♥, 2 ♠)

East

pass

South

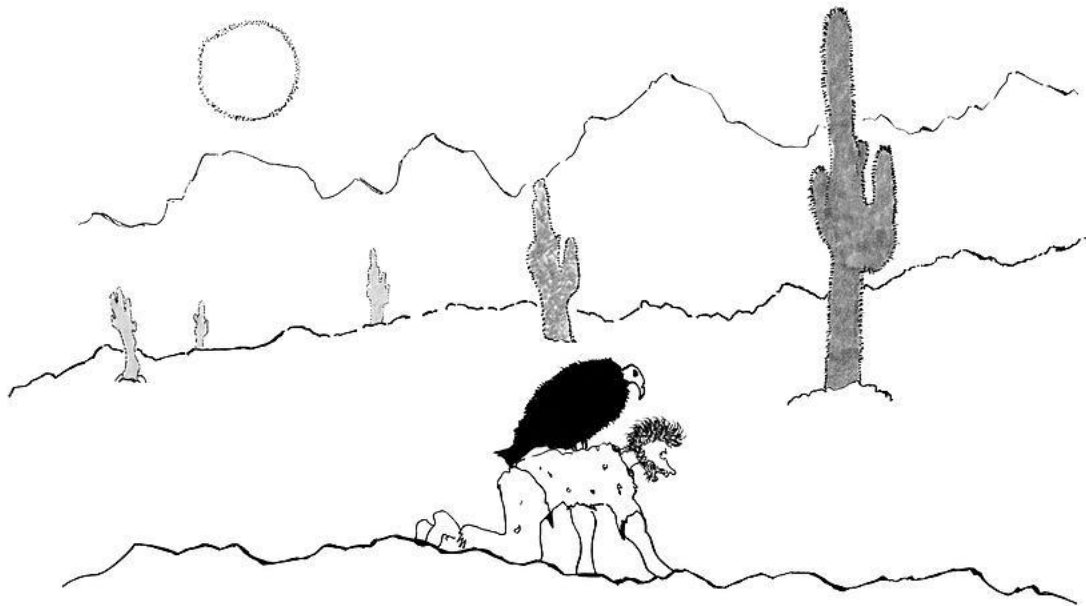
2 ♣

pass

West

pass

Crawling Stayman



"If I can crawl, you can circle."

SL-1200

Crawling Stayman

- Crawling Stayman is a convention that allows responder to sign off at the two level with a weak 3 suited hand short in diamonds.
- Once again, the convention starts as a regular Stayman sequence. (Must have 4-4 in majors)
 - If opener bids either major, responder will pass.
 - If opener bids 2 ♦ saying he has no 4-card major, responder bids 2 hearts.
 - If opener has 3 hearts, opener passes.
 - If opener has 2 hearts he must correct to spades.
 - If opener has 2-2-4-5, opener will bid 3 ♣,

Crawling Stayman Example 1

South

♠ K J 5 4

♥ 9 7 5 3

♦ 3

♣ Q 7 5 3

North

♠ Q 10 9 3

♥ A K J 5

♦ A 7

♣ J 10 9

North

1nt

2 ♥

East

pass

pass

South

2 ♣

West

pass

Crawling Stayman Example 2

South

♠ K 8 5 4

♥ Q 7 5 3

♦ 3 2

♣ J 6 5

North

♠ Q 10

♥ A K 8

♦ A 7 4

♣ Q 10 9 7 4

North	East	South	West
1nt	pass	2 ♣	pass
2 ♦	pass	2 ♥	pass
pass	pass		

Crawling Stayman Example 3

South

♠ K 8 5 4

♥ Q 7 5 3

♦ 3 2

♣ J 8 5

North

♠ A Q 10

♥ A 8

♦ A 7 4

♣ Q 10 9 7 4

North	East	South	West
1nt	pass	2 ♣	pass
2 ♦	pass	2 ♥	pass
2 ♠	pass	pass	pass

Crawling Stayman Example 4

South

♠ K 8 5 4

♥ Q 7 5 3

♦ 3 2

♣ J 8 5

North

♠ A J

♥ A 8

♦ A 7 6 4

♣ Q 10 9 7 4

North	East	South	West
1nt	pass	2 ♣	pass
2 ♦	pass	2 ♥	pass
3 ♣	pass	pass	pass

Don't Use Crawling Stayman 5

South

♠ K 8 5

♥ J 9 8 5 3

♦ 3 2

♣ J 6 5 2

North

♠ A J

♥ A 8 4

♦ A 7 6 4

♣ Q 10 9 7

North

1nt

2 ♥

East

pass

all pass

South

2 ♦

West

pass