

Puppet Stayman



Puppet Stayman

- An extension of regular Stayman, to allow for the no trump opener to have a 5-card major suit.
- It is a game forcing convention, so the responder must have at least 9 points.
- Responder must have a 3-card major suit or a 3-card and 4-card major suit.

One No Trump With a 5-Card Major

- Opening 1 no trump, with a 5-card major suit is controversial.
 - Some never do it.
 - Some do it occasionally.
 - Some do it regularly.
- Does your position at the table matter?
 - If you are opening in 3rd or 4th seat, open 1 no trump.
 - In 1st or 2nd seat, open some hands 1 no trump.

One No Trump With a 5-Card Major

- Does point count matter?
 - With 15 points, open the major suit.
 - With 16 or 17 points, You might open some hands with 1 no trump.
- Does distribution matter?
 - The most important factor.
 - With balanced distribution, lean toward opening 1 no trump.
 - With unbalanced hands, open the major suit.
 - Balanced distribution 5 3 3 2 – border line
balanced 5 4 2 2.

Regular Stayman

- Regular Stayman is not affected by Puppet Stayman.
- 2 ♣ initiates regular and all bids and responses are the same as you have learned them.
- We will say no more about regular Stayman.

Initiating Puppet Stayman

- Puppet Stayman is game forcing, thus you must have at least 9 points to initiate it.
- You will initiate puppet Stayman only if you have:
 - 9 or more points,
 - A 3-card major suit major suit, or
 - A 3-card major suit and a 4 card major suit.
- A bid of 3 ♣ initiates puppet Stayman.

Opening Bidder's Responses

- After 1 no trump...3 ♣, opening bidder responds in the following manner:
 - 3 ♦: I have no 5-card major suit, but I have at least 1 four-card major suit.
 - 3 ♥: I have 5 hearts.
 - 3 ♠: I have 5 spades.
 - 3 no trump: I have no 4-card or 5-card major suit.
- All these responses must be alerted.

Puppet Stayman Bidder's Second Bid

- If the no trump opener responds 3 ♥, 3 ♠ or 3 no trump, bid according to that information.
- If opener shows a 5-card major suit that matches responder's 3 card major, bid game in that suit. Otherwise bid 3 no trump.

A Special Situation

- Responder has 4-3 in the major suits and bids 3 ♣.
- The no trump opener rebids 3 ♦, showing no 5-card major, but at least one 4-card major suit.
- The responder must bid his 3 card major suit, to show 4 cards in the other major suit.

Puppet Stayman – Ex 1

Opener

1 nt

3 nt

Responder

3 ♣

pass

Opener

♠ K 4 2

♥ A 10 7

♦ A 10 5

♣ K Q 4 3

Responder

♠ A Q 8

♥ Q J

♦ J 9 7 4

♣ J 10 9 8

Puppet Stayman – Ex 2

Opener

1 nt

3 ♠

Responder

3 ♣

4 ♠

Opener

♠ K 10 9 4 2

♥ K 10

♦ A 10 5

♣ K Q 4

Responder

♠ A Q 8

♥ Q J 5

♦ J 9 7 4 2

♣ J 10

Puppet Stayman – Ex 3

Opener

1 nt

3 ♥

Responder

3 ♣

4 ♥

Opener

♠ 9 4 2

♥ A K 10 7 4

♦ A 10

♣ K Q 4

Responder

♠ 8

♥ Q J 5

♦ K 9 7 4 2

♣ A 10 6 3

Puppet Stayman – Ex 4

Opener

1 nt

3 ♠

Responder

3 ♣

3 nt

Opener

♠ A K 9 4 2

♥ 10 7 4

♦ A 10

♣ K Q 4

Responder

♠ 8

♥ Q J 5

♦ K Q 7 4 2

♣ A 10 6 3

Puppet Stayman – Ex 5

Opener

1 nt

3 ♦

Responder

3 ♣

3 nt

Opener

♠ A K 9 4

♥ K 7 4

♦ A 10 6

♣ K 5 4

Responder

♠ 8

♥ Q J 5

♦ K Q 7 4 2

♣ A 10 6 3

Puppet Stayman – Ex 5

Opener

1 nt

3 ♦

3 nt

Responder

3 ♣

3 ♠

Opener

♠ A K 9 4

♥ K 7 4

♦ A 10 3 2

♣ K 5

Responder

♠ J 8 2

♥ Q 10 5 3

♦ K Q

♣ A 10 6 4

Puppet Stayman – Ex 6

Opener

1 nt

3 ♦

4 ♥

Responder

3 ♣

3 ♠

Opener

♠ A Q 9

♥ K J 7 4

♦ A K 8 5

♣ 9 5

Responder

♠ J 8 2

♥ Q 10 5 3

♦ Q J 7

♣ A 10 6

Puppet Stayman – Ex 7

Opener

1 nt

3 ♦

Responder

3 ♣

3 nt

Opener

♠ A Q 9

♥ K J 7 4

♦ A K 8 5

♣ 9 5

Responder

♠ J 8

♥ Q 10 5

♦ Q J 7 3

♣ A J 10 5

Puppet Stayman – Ex 8

Opener
1 nt

Responder
3 nt

Opener
♠ A Q 9
♥ K J 7 4
♦ A K 8 5
♣ 9 5

Responder
♠ J 8 7
♥ Q 10 5
♦ Q J 7
♣ A J 10 5