

Practice Session for U3ABD12: The Stayman Convention

Welcome!

Here a description of all the hands that you could play in today's Practice Session. It includes details like the cards in each hand, how to evaluate each hand (High Card Points, Shortage Points, shape), the "correct" bidding, and lead. **Don't feel bad** if you bid the hands a bit differently, or ended up in a slightly different contract. Each week there's something new, it will take you a while to get the hang of all of it. Hopefully it will make a bit more sense with the detailed explanations given here.

We're here to help, share our enthusiasm for this great game. You will make mistakes, but we're always happy to explain or answer questions. Remember, you're playing with people who are just starting out, too. Let's have fun together!

-Ed

This Week's Lessons – In Brief

Natural Bids and Conventional Bids

In previous weeks you've learned bids like 1C and 1NT which mean more-or-less what they say: 1C means I've got some Clubs, perhaps we can play in a Club contract; 1NT means I haven't really got a suit but I've got a balanced hand, perhaps we can play in No Trumps? We call this sort of bid a **Natural Bid**.

This week we introduced your second **Convention**, which is called **Stayman**. This is used by making the **Conventional Bid** of 2C in response to your partner's opening bid of 1NT. A conventional bid doesn't have its obvious meaning; this 2C bid says nothing about Clubs, it's asking your partner if they have a 4-card major suit.

Conventional bids are somewhat confusing or misleading if you don't realise that they are conventional. Almost everybody who uses Acol uses the 2C Stayman bid, but there are many more conventions, that you can choose to play or not to play; when you play in a Bridge Club you tell the opponents which conventions you use. **Conventions aren't secret codes!**

Anyway, back to Stayman...

When to use Stayman

If your partner opens 1NT and you have four cards in a major suit (Hearts or Spades or both) you can respond 2C, to ask them if they have four cards in a major suit too. If you both have 4 Spades or 4 Hearts, that's an 8-card fit, which is usually enough to make playing in that suit a better idea than playing in No Trumps.

The other thing you need is enough points. In general, you need at least 11 points to use Stayman, or you can get stuck in a bad contract.

So, use Stayman if:

- Partner opens 1NT
- You have at least 11 points
- You have 4 Hearts or 4 Spades, or 4 Hearts AND 4 Spades

(If partner opens 1NT and you have more than four cards in a major, you will usually use a Red Suit Transfer bid instead.)

How Stayman works

Partner opens 1NT and you respond 2C. Partner **MUST NOT PASS!** They will now make one of three bids:

- 2D if they do not have 4 Hearts or 4 Spades
- 2H if they have 4 Hearts (and perhaps 4 Spades)
- 2S if they do not have 4 Hearts but do have 4 Spades

Notice that 2D is another conventional bid. It says nothing about Diamonds!

Your next bid if partner bids 2D

If partner responded 2D, you can't have a 4-4 fit in a major, so you must settle on a NT contract. You know that partner has 12-14 points (they opened 1NT). To make 3NT you need a total of 25 points, so:

- With 13+ points bid 3NT, because partner has at least 12 and you have 13; $12+13=25$. So you MUST have enough for game. Partner will pass and play in 3NT.
- With 11 or 12 points bid 2NT, because you don't know if partner has 12, 13, or 14 points - and you need a total of 25. This 2NT bid is a Game Invitation. It tells partner to bid 3NT if (AND ONLY IF) they have 14 points. With 12 or 13 points, they must pass and play in 2NT.

Notice that if you have 12 points and bid 2NT, if partner has 13 they will pass (missing game), even though you did have just enough points for game between you. Annoying, but bidding isn't quite precise enough to cover all situations.

Your next bid if partner bids your suit

If you have four Hearts and partner bid 2H, or you have four Spades and partner bid 2S, you have a fit and just need 25 points for game:

- With 13+ points bid 4H/S, because partner has at least 12 and you have 13; $12+13=25$. So you MUST have enough for game. Partner will pass and play in 4H/S.
- With 11 or 12 points bid 3H/S, because you don't know if partner has 12, 13, or 14 points - and you need a total of 25. This 3H/S bid is a Game Invitation. It tells partner to bid 4H/S if (AND ONLY IF) they have 14 points. With 12 or 13 points, they must pass and play in 3H/S.

Notice that if you have 12 points and bid 3H/S, if partner has 13 they will pass (missing game), even though you did have just enough points for game between you. Annoying, but bidding isn't quite precise enough to cover all situations

Your next bid if partner bids the wrong suit

If you have four Hearts and partner bids 2S, or you have four Spades and partner bids 2H, you *probably* don't have a fit and must settle on a NT contract, exactly as if partner had replied 2D:

- With 13+ points bid 3NT, because partner has at least 12 and you have 13; $12+13=25$. So you MUST have enough for game. Partner will pass and play in 3NT.
- With 11 or 12 points bid 2NT, because you don't know if partner has 12, 13, or 14 points - and you need a total of 25. This 2NT bid is a Game Invitation. It tells partner to bid 3NT if (AND ONLY IF) they have 14 points. With 12 or 13 points, they must pass and play in 2NT.

Notice that if you have 12 points and bid 2NT, if partner has 13 they will pass (missing game), even though you did have just enough points for game between you. Annoying, but bidding isn't quite precise enough to cover all situations.

Does the 1NT opener have any other bids?

Usually, the 1NT Opener will pass whatever the Stayman user bids, unless it's Game Invitation, which they will raise to game if they have 14 points. Notice how the Stayman bidder is in charge!

However, if they responded 2H to your 2C bid and you then bid 2NT or 3NT, they know you have four Spades because you used Stayman! In this case, they will CORRECT your NT bid to Spades if they also have four Spades:

- If you've bid 2NT, they will correct it to 3S
- If you've bid 3NT, they will correct it to 4S

You might need to read this section twice. Or maybe these examples will help:

1NT - 2C - 2H - 2NT - 3S

1NT - 2C - 2H - 3NT - 4S

The Hands

Note: All these hands start the same: 1NT and then 2C, so I'll just spell that out once, for the first hand, OK? Life is short.

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		

♠ KQ542
♥ AK7
♦ 643
♣ 85

♠ 9
♥ Q8643
♦ T9
♣ QJT96

♠ T87
♥ T95
♦ QJ875
♣ AK

♠ AJ63
♥ J2
♦ AK2
♣ 7432

Board: 1 Dealer: North Lead: ♦Q #529

North has 12 HCP and a balanced hand, so opens 1NT. This shows 12-14 HCP and a balanced hand. South has 13 HCP and a 4-card major, so responds with 2C, Stayman.

North doesn't have four Hearts but does have four (actually five) Spades, so responds with 2S. This response promises four Spades and denies four Hearts.

South can count 25-27 HCP and 8 Spades, so bids 4S.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

The Stayman 2C bid is sometimes called an **Asking Bid**, because it asks a question: have you got a four card major?

East	South	West	North
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	4♥	Pass
Pass	Pass		

♠ KQ82
♥ 92
♦ QJT8
♣ 985

♠ 64
♥ AQT5
♦ 9743
♣ AKJ

♠ A7
♥ 8743
♦ AK62
♣ Q43

♠ JT953
♥ KJ6
♦ 5
♣ T762

Board: 2 Dealer: East Lead: ♠J #3000

East has four Hearts, so responds 2H to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows at least four Hearts but does not deny four Spades. Notice that you just need four Hearts to bid 2H, they don't have to be good cards!

West has 14 HCP, so can count 26-28 HCP and 8 Hearts, so bids 4H.

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
	♠A5		
	♥AKT4		
	♦9432		
	♣984		
♠QJT9		♠K872	
♥9532		♥876	
♦T7		♦865	
♣KQT		♣A73	
	♠643		
	♥QJ		
	♦AKQJ		
	♣J652		

Board: 3 Dealer: South Lead: ♠Q #31

South does not have four Hearts or four Spades, so responds 2D to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows less than four Hearts and less than four Spades. It doesn't say anything about Diamonds.

North knows there's no major fit, but with 11 HCP can count 23-25 HCP, so they bid the 2NT Game Invitation, asking partner to bid 3NT if they have the maximum points for their 1NT bid.

South has 14 HCP, the maximum for their 1NT opening bid, so bids 3NT as requested.

ADDITIONAL (ADVANCED) DISCUSSION

The 2D response to the 2C asking bid is sometimes called a **Negative Response** or **Denial**, because it's a bit disappointing!

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠T7		
	♥QT7		
	♦A6		
	♣JT6543		
♠K32		♠A654	
♥A32		♥K96	
♦QT98		♦KJ73	
♣K92		♣87	
	♠QJ98		
	♥J854		
	♦542		
	♣AQ		

Board: 4 Dealer: West Lead: ♣5 #571

West does not have four Hearts or four Spades, so responds 2D to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows less than four Hearts and less than four Spades. It doesn't say anything about Diamonds.

East knows there's no major fit, but with 11 HCP can count 23-25 HCP, so they bid the 2NT Game Invitation, asking partner to bid 3NT if they have the maximum points for their 1NT bid.

West has 13 HCP, one less than the maximum for their 1NT opening bid, so passes as requested.

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠863		
	♥K84		
	♦K832		
	♣AK5		
♠Q74		♠JT92	
♥QJT9		♥32	
♦QJ		♦T97	
♣8763		♣QJT9	
	♠AK5		
	♥A765		
	♦A654		
	♣42		

Board: 5 Dealer: North Lead: ♣Q #1159

North does not have four Hearts or four Spades, so responds 2D to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows less than four Hearts and less than four Spades. It doesn't say anything about Diamonds.

South knows there's no major fit, but with 15 HCP can count 27-29 HCP, enough points to bid 3NT.

East South West North

1NT Pass 2♣ Pass
 2♦ Pass 2NT Pass
 3NT Pass Pass Pass

♠QT82

♥QJ96

♦82

♣842

♠K53
 ♥AK74
 ♦J95
 ♣J53

♠A96
 ♥T53
 ♦KQT76
 ♣A7

♠J74

♥82

♦A43

♣KQT96

South West North East

1NT Pass 2♣ Pass
 2♠ Pass 3♠ Pass
 Pass Pass

♠KJT4

♥643

♦Q7

♣KQT4

♠Q987
 ♥QJT
 ♦AT86
 ♣95

♠6
 ♥A975
 ♦KJ932
 ♣732

♠A532

♥K82

♦54

♣AJ86

West North East South

1NT Pass 2♣ Pass
 2♠ Pass 4♠ Pass
 Pass Pass

♠AQ

♥43

♦T9854

♣T843

♠T982
 ♥A52
 ♦AQ
 ♣A765

♠7653
 ♥KQ97
 ♦KJ
 ♣KQ2

♠KJ4

♥JT86

♦7632

♣J9

Board: 6 Dealer: East Lead: ♣K #1539

East does not have four Hearts or four Spades, so responds 2D to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows less than four Hearts and less than four Spades. It doesn't say anything about Diamonds.

West knows there's no major fit, but with 12 HCP they can count 24-26 HCP, so they bid the 2NT Game Invitation, asking partner to bid 3NT if they have the maximum points for their 1NT bid.

East has 14 HCP, the maximum for their 1NT opening bid, so bids 3NT as requested.

Board: 7 Dealer: South Lead: ♥Q #1618

South does not have four Hearts, but does have four Spades, so responds 2S to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows at least four Spades and denies four Hearts.

North has 11 HCP so can count 23-25 HCP and 8 Spades, so bids 3S as a Game Invitation, asking partner to bid 4S if they have the maximum 14 HCP for their 1NT bid.

South has 12 HCP, two less than the maximum for their 1NT opening bid, so passes as requested.

Board: 8 Dealer: West Lead: ♦T #1926

West has less than four Hearts but does have four Spades, so responds 2S to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows at least four Spades and denies four Hearts. Notice that you just need four Spades to bid 2S, they don't have to be good cards!

East has 14 HCP so can count 26-28 HCP and 8 Spades, so bids 4S.

If you look at the hands, you can see that Declarer is missing the A, K, Q and J of Spades. Oh dear! This may look like a disaster, but they still have a fair chance of making the contract if the Spades split evenly; they just have to make nine tricks in the other suits!

Stayman bidding doesn't promise anything about the quality of the major suits, just the length.

North East South West

1NT Pass 2♣ Pass
 2♥ Pass 3NT Pass
 4♠ Pass Pass Pass

♠AQJ6
 ♥QJT9
 ♦A7
 ♣643

♠7
 ♥87543
 ♦Q86532
 ♣2

♠T853
 ♥A
 ♦KT9
 ♣QJT95

♠K942
 ♥K62
 ♦J4
 ♣AK87

East South West North

1NT Pass 2♣ Pass
 2♥ Pass 3NT Pass
 4♠ Pass Pass Pass

♠T62
 ♥A9642
 ♦863
 ♣K9

♠AK93
 ♥K3
 ♦Q542
 ♣J62

♠Q874
 ♥QJT7
 ♦AK
 ♣T75

♠J5
 ♥85
 ♦JT97
 ♣AQ843

South West North East

1NT Pass 2♣ Pass
 2♦ Pass 2NT Pass
 3NT Pass Pass Pass

♠J6
 ♥AQ73
 ♦K53
 ♣Q742

♠Q8542
 ♥T85
 ♦A62
 ♣A5

♠K73
 ♥642
 ♦987
 ♣JT96

♠AT9
 ♥KJ9
 ♦QJT4
 ♣K83

Board: 9 Dealer: North Lead: ♣Q #94

North has four Hearts and four Spades, so responds 2H to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows at least four Hearts but does not deny four Spades. Notice that you don't choose your best or longest major, if you have both; you bid Hearts.

South doesn't have four Hearts but does have 14 HCP so they can count 26-28 HCP, enough to bid 3NT.

North now knows that South has four Spades (but not four Hearts) – they used Stayman, so must have a 4-card major. As they have four Spades of their own, they correct the 3NT bid to 4S for the 4-4 fit.

4S is usually a better contract than 3NT, if you have a 4-4 fit.

Board: 10 Dealer: East Lead: ♦J #3109

East has four Hearts and four Spades, so responds 2H to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows at least four Hearts but does not deny four Spades. Notice that you don't choose your best or longest major, if you have both; you must bid Hearts.

West doesn't have four Hearts but does have 13 HCP so they can count 25-27 HCP, enough to bid 3NT.

East now knows that West has four Spades (not four Hearts). As they have four Spades of their own, they correct the 3NT bid to 4S for the 4-4 fit.

Board: 11 Dealer: South Lead: ♠4 #143

South does not have four Hearts or four Spades, so responds 2D to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows less than four Hearts and less than four Spades. It doesn't say anything about Diamonds.

North knows there's no major fit, but with 12 HCP can count 24-26 HCP, so they bid the 2NT Game Invitation, asking partner to bid 3NT if they have the maximum points for their 1NT bid.

South has 14 HCP, the maximum for their 1NT opening bid, so bids 3NT as requested.

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ J		
	♥ KQJT7		
	♦ T984		
	♣ Q93		
♠ A64		♠ K983	
♥ A53		♥ 64	
♦ Q62		♦ AK3	
♣ KJ54		♣ AT87	
	♠ QT752		
	♥ 982		
	♦ J75		
	♣ 62		

Board: 12 Dealer: West Lead: ♥K #183
 West does not have four Hearts or four Spades, so responds 2D to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows less than four Hearts and less than four Spades. It doesn't say anything about Diamonds.

East knows there's no major fit, but with 14 HCP can count 26-28 HCP, enough to bid 3NT.

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ QT5		
	♥ KQ83		
	♦ 74		
	♣ AK42		
♠ K863		♠ 74	
♥ JT72		♥ 965	
♦ AJ9		♦ T8532	
♣ J8		♣ QT7	
	♠ AJ92		
	♥ A4		
	♦ KQ6		
	♣ 9653		

Board: 13 Dealer: North Lead: ♦3 #3064
 North has four Hearts, so responds 2H to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows at least four Hearts but does not deny four Spades.

South doesn't have four Hearts but does have 14 HCP so they can count 26-28 HCP, enough to bid 3NT.

East	South	West	North
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ KJ6		
	♥ 65		
	♦ Q9832		
	♣ 643		
♠ A8753		♠ T942	
♥ KJ742		♥ QT8	
♦		♦ AKJ	
♣ JT5		♣ A82	
	♠ Q		
	♥ A93		
	♦ T7654		
	♣ KQ97		

Board: 14 Dealer: East Lead: ♣K #692

WARNING: Advanced hand!

When partner opens 1NT, West has a problem. They only have 9 HCP (not enough for Stayman), but they have a void and two good 5-card majors. Their hand will play a lot better in either of those majors than in No Trumps. But which major? And should they use Red Suit Transfers or Stayman to try for a fit?

They chose Stayman, despite being 2 HCP short, because they aren't going to play in NT. So...

East does not have four Hearts, but does have four Spades, so responds 2S to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows at least four Spades and denies four Hearts.

West can only count 21-23 HCP but 9 Spades, so bids 3S as a Game Invitation, asking partner to bid 4S if they have the maximum 14 HCP for their 1NT bid. A bit optimistic?

East has 14 HCP, the maximum for their 1NT opening bid, so should

bid 4S – but bids 3NT instead. This is based on two worries: their support for Spades is poor (no Honours) and their shape is also poor; entirely balanced so no ruffing opportunities.

West is happy to hear that partner has 14 HCP, but is still dead set against playing in No Trumps, with their void and nine Spades they correct to 4S.

Additional Advanced Discussion

West is very lucky that East had a four card major, finding a 4-5 fit. If East had replied 2D, West could only guess which suit to choose. I think there’s a better way to bid this hand, using **Red Suit Transfers**.

To show a weak two-suited hand, West should respond 2D to East’s 1NT opening, requesting a transfer to 2H. This shows East they have at least five Hearts. West can then bid 2S, to tell East that they have 5 Spades as well. East can now choose which suit to play in, at the lowest level: pass to play in 2S or bid 3H.

To show a stronger two-suited hand, West should respond 2H to East’s 1NT opening, requesting a transfer to 2S. This shows East they have at least five Spades. West can then bid 3H, telling East that they have 5 Hearts as well. This is a Game Invitation, asking East to choose the suit and bid game (4H or 4S) if they have the maximum points for their 1NT bid. If East has less than 14 HCP, they choose the suit at the lowest level, by passing 3H or bidding 3S.

To show a strong two-suited hand, West should respond 2H to East’s 1NT opening, requesting a transfer to 2S. This shows East they have at least five Spades. West can then jump to 4H, telling East that they have 5 Hearts as well and enough points for game. This is a Game Force, asking East to choose the suit by passing 4H or bidding 4S.

The differences are subtle; with a weak hand you keep the bidding as low as possible; with a stronger hand you bid less economically; with a strong hand, you jump. Phew!

In general you should use Stayman with 4-card majors and Red Suit Transfers with 5-card majors.

South	West	North	East
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠	Pass	4♠	Pass
Pass	Pass		
	♠ KQ92		
	♥ KQJ2		
	♦ Q9		
	♣ T74		
♠ 43		♠ T76	
♥ T876		♥ 43	
♦ K875		♦ AJ62	
♣ KQJ		♣ 6532	
	♠ AJ85		
	♥ A95		
	♦ T43		
	♣ A98		

Board: 15 Dealer: South Lead: ♣K #1941
 South has less than four Hearts, but four Spades, so responds 2S to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows at least four Spades and denies four Hearts.

North has 13 HCP so can count 25-27 HCP and 8 Spades, so bids 4S.

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦	Pass	2NT	Pass
3NT	Pass	Pass	Pass

♠ K73
♥ QJT96
♦ 953
♣ Q2

♠ 654
♥ K87
♦ AQJ
♣ A643

♠ AQJ2
♥ A2
♦ 642
♣ T975

♠ T98
♥ 543
♦ KT87
♣ KJ8

North	East	South	West
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
4♥	Pass	Pass	Pass

♠ QJT4
♥ K843
♦ 97
♣ AK9

♠ A952
♥ J9
♦ AQT
♣ J532

♠ 63
♥ T72
♦ J8432
♣ Q64

♠ K87
♥ AQ65
♦ K65
♣ T87

Board: 16 Dealer: West Lead: ♥Q #218

West does not have four Hearts or four Spades, so responds 2D to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows less than four Hearts and less than four Spades. It doesn't say anything about Diamonds.

East knows there's no major fit, but with 11 HCP they can count 23-25 HCP, so they bid the 2NT Game Invitation, asking partner to bid 3NT if they have the maximum points for their 1NT bid.

West has 14 HCP, the maximum for their 1NT opening bid, so bids 3NT as requested.

Board: 17 Dealer: North Lead: ♣4 #1991

North has four Hearts and four Spades, so responds 2H to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows at least four Hearts but does not deny four Spades.

South has 12 HCP so can count 24-26 HCP and 8 Hearts, so bids 3H as a Game Invitation, asking partner to bid 4H if they have the maximum 14 HCP for their 1NT bid.

North has 13 HCP, one less than the maximum for their 1NT opening bid, so they should pass, but bid 4H. Hmm. I guess they can claim a Shortage Point for their Diamond Doubleton. Looks a bit risky to me...

Advanced Discussion

OK, looking at the North-South hands in isolation, you can easily lose one Club, two Diamonds, one Spade and maybe even a Heart. A risky contract.

Looking at all four hands, the contract makes because the Hearts split nicely. You should lose two Diamonds and a Spade with an opening lead of a Diamond; with a Club lead you get a free finesse for an overtrick.

East South West North
 1NT Pass 2♣ Pass
 2♦ Pass 3NT Pass
 Pass Pass

♠ K85
 ♥ K95
 ♦ T762
 ♣ QJ2

♠ QJT6
 ♥ J3
 ♦ Q854
 ♣ AK9

♠ A74
 ♥ Q82
 ♦ AKJ3
 ♣ 765

♠ 932
 ♥ AT764
 ♦ 9
 ♣ T843

Board: 18 Dealer: East Lead: ♥6 #225

East does not have four Hearts or four Spades, so responds 2D to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows less than four Hearts and less than four Spades. It doesn't say anything about Diamonds.

West knows there's no major fit, but with 13 HCP can count 25-27 HCP, so they bid 3NT.

South West North East
 1NT Pass 2♣ Pass
 2♥ Pass 3NT Pass
 Pass Pass

♠ QJ54
 ♥ AK
 ♦ A875
 ♣ 962

♠ 7632
 ♥ 84
 ♦ KQJT9
 ♣ KT

♠ T98
 ♥ T9752
 ♦
 ♣ QJ873

♠ AK
 ♥ QJ63
 ♦ 6432
 ♣ A54

Board: 19 Dealer: South Lead: ♦K #1154

South has four Hearts, so responds 2H to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows at least four Hearts but does not deny four Spades.

North doesn't have four Hearts but does have 14 HCP so they can count 26-28 HCP, enough to bid 3NT.

West North East South
 1NT Pass 2♣ Pass
 2♦ Pass 2NT Pass
 3NT Pass Pass Pass

♠ T83
 ♥ QJT94
 ♦ 63
 ♣ QT2

♠ KQ6
 ♥ AK
 ♦ Q87
 ♣ 87643

♠ 7542
 ♥ 852
 ♦ AKJT
 ♣ A5

♠ AJ9
 ♥ 763
 ♦ 9542
 ♣ KJ9

Board: 20 Dealer: West Lead: ♥Q #1161

West does not have four Hearts or four Spades, so responds 2D to the Stayman 2C bid. This shows less than four Hearts and less than four Spades. It doesn't say anything about Diamonds.

East knows there's no major fit, but with 12 HCP they can count 24-26 HCP, so they bid the 2NT Game Invitation, asking partner to bid 3NT if they have the maximum points for their 1NT bid.

West has 14 HCP, the maximum for their 1NT opening bid, so bids 3NT as requested.

Synopsis

u3a Commentary Synopsis				
	Subject	Stayman	Hand #	Declarer / Defender
		Bidding Sequence		
1	N	1NT, 2C, 2S, 4S	529	Dec.
2	E	1NT, 2C, 2H, 4H	3000	Dec.
3	S	1NT, 2C, 2D, 2NT, 3NT	31	Dec
4	W	1NT, 2C, 2D, 2NT	571	Dec
		,		
5	N	1NT, 2C, 2D, 3NT	1159	Dec
6	E	1NT, 2C, 2D, 2NT, 3NT	1539	Dec
7	S	1NT, 2C, 2S, 3S	1618	Dec
8	W	1NT, 2C, 2S, 4S	1926	Dec
		,		
9	N	1NT, 2C, 2H, 3NT, 4S	94	Dec
10	E	1NT, 2C, 2H, 3NT, 4S	3109	Dec
11	S	1NT, 2C, 2D, 2NT, 3NT	143	Dec
12	W	1NT, 2C, 2D, 3NT	183	Dec
		,		
13	N	1NT, 2C, 2H, 3NT	3064	Dec
14	E	1NT, 2C, 2S, 3S, 3NT, 4S	692	Dec
15	S	1NT, 2C, 2S, 4S	1941	Dec
16	W	1NT, 2C, 2D, 2NT, 3NT	218	Dec
		,		
17	N	1NT, 2C, 2H, 3H, 4H	1991	Dec
18	E	1NT, 2C, 2D, 3NT	225	Dec
19	S	1NT, 2C, 2H, 3NT	1154	Dec
20	W	1NT, 2C, 2D, 2NT, 3NT	1161	Dec