

Handout 3 Stayman



Stayman is the most widely used conventional bid in bridge and is easy to remember. It is a bid of two clubs in response to one no trump, asking opener to show a four card major suit.

After a two club response, opener rebids:

- 2 hearts with a 4 card heart suit (may also have a 4 card spade suit).
- 2 spades with 4 spades and not 4 hearts.
- 2 diamonds with no 4 card major suit.

REMEMBER: A bid of 2 clubs in response to 1 NT asks opener to show a 4 card major suit.

The main purpose of stayman is to find a four card fit in a major suit. Playing in a 4-4 fit will usually produce more tricks than playing in no trumps.

Responders rebids—

With 11 to 12 points, raise to three of the major with a fit, bid two no-trump without a fit. Opener can now place the contract.

With 13 plus points, raise to four of a suit with a fit, bid three no-trump without a fit.

There are further extensions to Stayman.

With a weak hand and 5/4 in the majors bid 2C Stayman. Pass the response with a fit-- Without a fit, bid your five card suit as a Weak Take- Out.

Other extensions for those who are not playing Transfers,

1. Intermediate Stayman. With 11 or 12 points and **A Five Card Major**. Bid Stayman followed by your **Five Card Suit** at the Three Level. Partner can now decide whether to bid Three No Trumps, Four of the Major, or Leave in Three of the Major.
2. Extended Stayman. With 13 plus points and 5/4 in the Majors, bid Stayman. Over a Diamond response bid three diamonds asking for a 3 card major. Responder now places the contract in three no-trump or four of the major.
3. With a weak hand and long clubs- bid three clubs over the response to Stayman.