# SCOTT151

## **The Stayman Convention**

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#### **Conventional Bids**

A conventional bid is an <u>artificial</u> bid: unlike a <u>natural</u> bid it does not mean that you are offering to play in the denomination you have just bid.

Because it is artificial it is also *forcing* – partner may not pass.

Conventional bids are often named after a player credited with inventing their artificial meaning.

One such is "Stayman" named for Samuel Stayman of the USA (though he did not actually think of it first!)

## The Stayman Response to 1NT

In response to an opening bid of 1NT 2. is an artificial bid.

It says nothing about clubs: it simply asks partner whether he has any 4-card majors.

Its purpose is to find the best game – sometimes you can make 4♥ or 4♠ when 3NT has too many losers, because the trump suit controls a suit where you do not have enough stoppers.

#### Stayman is a device for locating a 4-4 major fit

There are two provisos for using Stayman:

- 1. You must have at least one 4-card major. (precisely 4 cards, not 5)
- 2. You must be prepared for any response partner may make

## Responding to the Stayman 2. Enquiry

There are only three possible replies:

- "I have no 4-card major"
- 2♥ "I have 4 hearts. I may have 4 spades also"
- 2 "I have 4 spades. I do not have 4 hearts"

## Further Bidding after Opener's Response

<b>♦</b> A74	N	<b>♦</b> KJ63
<b>♥</b> J8	W	<b>♥</b> AQ73
♦ AJ105	$\boldsymbol{E}$	<b>♦</b> 2
♣ Q953	S	♣ AJ104
1NT		2*
2♦		3NT

West has no 4-card major.

East gives up and  $\underline{signs\ off}$  in 3NT.

<b>♦</b> Q73	N	<b>♦</b> KJ104
<b>♥</b> KJ52	W	<b>♥</b> AQ73
◆ A104	E	<b>♦</b> 2
<b>♣</b> K93	S	♣ AJ104
1NT		2 <b>.</b>
2♥		4♥

West shows 4 hearts, so there is an 8-card heart fit. East has enough to bid game

<b>♦</b> KQ74	N	<b>♦</b> 9
<b>♥</b> J8	W	<b>♥</b> AQ73
◆ AJ104	E	◆ KQ72
<b>♣</b> Q93	S	♣ AJ104
1NT		2.
2 🏟		3NT

West denies 4 hearts, so there is no 4-4 major fit. At least there should be a spade stopper!

♠ A74	N	♠ KJ103
<b>♥</b> J8	W	<b>♥</b> AQ73
◆ AJ105	E	<b>♦</b> 82
♣ Q953	S	♣ J104
1NT		2.
2♦		2NT
Pass		

West has no 4-card major. East <u>invites game</u> with 2NT. West is minimum, and passes

<b>♦</b> A74	N	<b>♦</b> KJ103
<b>♥</b> KJ104	W	<b>∨</b> AQ73
♦ A5	E	<b>♦</b> 82
♣ Q953	S	<b>♣</b> J104
1NT		2♣
2♥		3♥
4♥		

West shows 4 hearts, so there is a 4-4 fit. East invites game by raising to 3. West is maximum and bids on to game.

<b>♦</b> AQ73	N	<b>♦</b> KJ104
<b>♥</b> KJ52	W	<b>♥</b> Q73
◆ A104	E	<b>♦</b> 82
<b>4</b> 93	S	♣ AJ104
1NT		2.
2♥		2NT
<b>4</b> ♠		Pass

West shows 4 hearts. East invites game with 2NT. When he bid 2. he promised a 4-card major, so West, with a maximum, bids 4.

Stayman can also be used after a 1NT overcall (showing 15-18 HCP). In this case only 8+ HCP are needed.



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# Weak Stayman

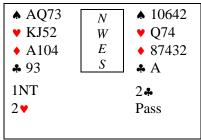
There is one additional use to the Stayman Convention which is relatively rare. After partner has opened 1NT and you have a very weak hand you can occasionally use Stayman to find a better place to play. In this situation you will not have 11 or more High card points but you must be able to stand any reply that partner might make.

<b>♠</b> A74	N	<b>♦</b> 5432
<b>♥</b> J8	W	<b>9</b> 743
◆ AJ105	E	♦ 8764
♣ Q953	S	<b>♣</b> J
1NT		2.
2♦		Pass

West has no 4-card major. so bids 2♦, West passes

<b>♦</b> A74	N	<b>♦</b> 98632
<b>♥</b> KJ104	W	<b>y</b> 9873
♦ A5	E	♦ 8762
♣ Q953	S	*
1NT		2 <b>.</b>
2♥		Pass

West shows 4 hearts, East passes



West shows 4 hearts. East passes