


## 2. Stayman and 4-4 in the Majors

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♠ AJ109			
♥ AJ92			
♦ AJ6			
♣ 85			
♠ 73		♠ Q64	
♥ Q4		♥ 7653	
♦ 8732		♦ KQ54	
♣ QJ1097		♣ 64	
		♠ K852	
		♥ K108	
		♦ 109	
		♣ AK32	
W	N	E	S
	1NT	P	2♣
P	2♥	P	3NT
P	4♠	All Pass	
--North-South Vulnerable--			

### The Bidding:

North, with 15-17 points and a balanced hand opens 1NT. South, with a four-card major and 8 or more points, uses Stayman and bids 2Clubs. Partner, with both majors, bids 2Hearts up-the-line and South places the contract in 3NT with no fit in Hearts. Since South must have at least one four-card major, North corrects to 4Spades.

It should be noted that West has the exact same Clubs as in last week's column, but did not double 2Clubs for a Club lead this week because his hand is weak overall, lacking a suitable entry such as the Spade bullet (Ace) if the contract became 3NT.

**The Opening Lead:** King of Diamonds

### The Play:

North wins the opening lead with the Ace of Diamonds and plays the Jack of Spades. East correctly resists the temptation to cover and North plays the King from dummy. Declarer now plays a small Spade to the Ten which loses to East's Queen. East exits a club which is won by the Ace. Declarer draws the last trump and exits a diamond setting up his Jack of Diamonds which becomes the parking space for a Heart. Declarer plays the Ace and King of Hearts expecting to ruff the third round but the Queen falls and the rest of the hand comes home.

**Result:** 4 Spades making plus 1 for +650

**Note:** The lead directive double of a Club would have saved East from leading the King of Diamonds against 4Spades. The Diamond lead has some risk to it because North is marked with the majority of the points, but it is the best lead available. Leading a doubleton into a strong declarer is worse if partner cannot double 2Clubs. €