


9. Stayman and a Minor Suit Slam

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	♠ K10		
	♥ J987		
	♦ A976		
	♣ AQJ		
♠ J72		♠ Q9864	
♥ 104		♥ A653	
♦ 43		♦ 5	
♣ K108754		♣ 962	
	♠ A53		
	♥ KQ2		
	♦ KQJ1082		
	♣ 3		
W	N	E	S
	1NT	P	2♣
P	2♥	P	3♦
P	4♦	P	4NT
P	5♥	P	6♦
	All Pass		
	--North-South Vulnerable--		

Stayman:

Columns 1 to 8 covered the use of the Stayman convention in responding to a 1 NT opener. This convention tells the opener that the responder has a 4-card major. However, Stayman can also be used to show an interest in a minor suit slam, with or without a four-card major.

The Bidding:

North, with 15-17 points and a balanced hand, opens 1NT. South, with an interest in a diamond slam uses Stayman, a bid of two clubs, then bids 3 diamonds in response of partner's bid of 2 hearts. North now has the option of bidding a) 3NT with two diamonds and adequate stoppers, b) 4 diamonds with a good fit and a hand suited for slam with aces and kings and a doubleton or c) 5 diamonds with a minimum fit and minimum point count with a concern for stoppers in an unmentioned suit.

4 diamonds is not a shutout when the partnership is trying for slam. It gives partner room to cuebid (showing Aces once game in a suit has been established) or to ask for keycards.

Note:

North knows that either

- South is 5-4 in diamonds and spades with a game force or
- South has long diamonds with a slam interest.

The Opening Lead:

The Play:

Declarer wins the opening lead and finishes drawing trump. Declarer then kicks out the ace of hearts and ruffs a spade making his hand good.

Result:

Notes:

- It would be wrong for North to ask for keycards because South knows more about both hands, and as a result, is the captain. North did have the option of not encouraging with the four diamonds bid.
- North's answer to 4NT forces 6 diamonds but that's quite alright because with two keycards, South wants to be there. With an answer of 5 clubs or 5 diamonds, South will want to and will be able to sign off in 5 diamonds.