

Stayman

Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club
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<http://watsongallery.ca/bridge/Workshops/Stayman.pdf>

The most widely used and most frequently used convention of all conventions:

Stayman

- Directly over Notrump
- Shows one or two four card majors
- Cuebid in competition

Examples

1NT (15-17) 2♣ 8+ HCP's and a four-card major

2NT (20-21) 3♣ 4+ HCP's and a four-card major

2♣ 2♦

2NT (22-24) 3♣ 2+ HCP's and a four card major

2♣ 2♦

3NT (25-27) 4♣ 0+ HCP's and a four card major

4♦, 4♥ transfers

5♣ super Gerber (asks for aces)

Example: Stayman Guarantees a four-card Major

♠ AK98

♥ J1098

♦ KJ3

♣ K4

1NT (15-17) 2♣

2♥ 2NT 8 or 9

3♠ Yes I have both majors but would not accept an invite.

Stayman does not guarantee a four-card major

when four-suited transfers or Minor Suit Stayman is being used

1NT 2NT is a transfer to clubs or diamonds
 must go through Stayman to invite

5-4 in the Majors

Using transfers guarantees 5 in every major bid. Stayman is used for 5-4 in the majors.

1NT 2♣
2♦ 3♥ 5 hearts and 4 spades forcing to game

1NT 2♣
2♦ 2♥ 5 hearts and 4 spades invitational (8-9 points)

Trash Stayman

Partner opens 1NT and you have the following:

a.	♠	10976	b.	♠	109764
	♥	J432		♥	J432
	♦	109876		♦	109
	♣	---		♣	73

1NT would be a disaster, so what do you bid?

In a, bid 2♣ and pass any response.

In b, transfer to Spades and pass.

Related Topics:

Lead Direction, Smolen, FADS, Puppet Stayman, Super Gerber

Lead Direction

Both Stayman 2♣ and the response, 2♦, can be doubled for a lead. If the opener leader doubles 2♦, he probably won't make a diamond opening lead but will expect his partner to lead it when he gets in.

Lead direction double is made with a suit that looks like KQJxxx but never with length without strength such as Axxxxxx.

Other acceptable lead direction suits are KJ10xx, AKJxx, etc.

Smolen

You rebid the four-card major not the five-card major when 5-4 in the majors after 2♦ response to 2♣.

FADS

When a transfer bid is doubled for a lead, the 1NT opener passes with two-cards in partner's suit and partner can retransfer at the three level or bid the suit so the person doubling for the lead is now on lead.

When a Stayman bid is doubled, Fast Action Denies a Stopper (direct 2♦, 2♥ or 2♠) and a pass (followed by a redouble so Stayman can be answered) shows a stopper.

Board 1 Trash Stayman

North Dealer None Vulnerable

♠ K3	♥ AK3	♦ 10432	♣ KQJ10
♠ A2	♥ QJ1098	♦ 42	♣ AQ
♥ QJ109	♦ K5	♣ A983	♣ 76542
♦ K5	♣ 76542	♦ A983	♣ 7654
♣ 76542	♦ A983	♦ 7654	♥ 8765
♦ A983	♦ 7654	♥ 8765	♦ J9876
♣ 7654	♥ 8765	♦ J9876	♣ ---

N	E	S	W
1N	P	2♣	P
2♦	All Pass		

Opening Lead: ♠Queen

Topics:

- Trash Stayman
 - 1NT is down one where 2♦ makes +130 or +110 if defenders find ♠ ruff with ♦ King
- Put the A and Q of diamonds in a long suit then east overcalls 1NT (use DONT) with 2♣ showing clubs and a higher suit.
- Ruffing Finesse
- Drawing trump fairly quickly on anything but a heart lead
- On a heart lead go after clubs for heart pitches

Board 2 Implied Major

East Dealer

North South Vulnerable

N	E	S	W
	1NT	P	2♣
P	2♥	P	3NT
P	4♠	All Pass	

Opening Lead: ♥Q

- Trump is bad, Partner may have Qx and win a finesse which won't be taken if you lead a trump because a trump lead absolutely denies the Queen of trump unless QJ10

Analysis:

- Only draw two rounds of trump to get two ruffs in each hand making 4. If you draw 3 rounds of trump, you are down one.

Board 3 Growth

South Dealer East West Vulnerable

♠A543
♥42
♦KQ102
♣765

♠Q98 ♠J10
♥KJ83 ♥Q109
♦76 ♦AJ983
♣J1098 ♣432

♠K762
♥A765
♦54
♣AKQ

N	E	S	W
		1NT	P
2♣	P	2♥	P
2NT	P	4♠	All Pass

Opening Lead: ♣Jack

Analysis:

Do not touch trump. Play a small diamond to the King. Lose a heart then draw two rounds of trump. Cash last club and then cross ruff the hand. They will get their one trump but you will get four tricks from cross-ruffing (three tricks). If you draw the last trump, you get one less trick (two tricks).

Board 4

West Dealer

Both Vulnerable

♠A5 ♥J87 ♦654 ♣98763		♠10987 ♥654 ♦AJ1098 ♣A
♠KQ32 ♥AK32 ♦K32 ♣54	♠J64 ♥Q109 ♦Q7 ♣KQJ102	

N	E	S	W
			1N
P	2♣	Dbl	2♥
P	2NT	P	3♠
P	4♠	All Pass	

Opening Lead: ♣6

Analysis:

- South wants a Club lead and doubles Stayman. West's 2♥ bid denies a Club stopper.
- Attack trump. Play the 10 to the King. If it loses to the Ace then hook the Jack. If it wins then play small to the Queen. A smart and tricky defender will hold up on the Ace and declarer will have to guess.
- Use Diamonds for transportation. Play small Diamond to the Jack then King to the Ace since the Jack lost to the Queen.

Board 5 5-4 in the Majors

North Dealer NS Vulnerable

♠ Q32	♦ AK	♦ AJ93	♣ QJ109
♠ 87	♦ 765	♦ K54	♣ 7632
♥ Q1098	♦ AK654	♦ 876	♣ 8
♦ Q102	♥ J432	♦ 876	♣ 8
♣ AK54	♦ 876	♦ 876	♣ 8

N	E	S	W
1NT	P	2♣	P
2♦	P	2♠	P
4♠	All Pass		

Opening Lead: ♠ Ace then trump. Though a ♦ switch is the best but riskier.

Analysis:

- When 5-4 in the majors, use Stayman and rebid the 5-card major at the two level showing 8-9 HCP's.
- Declarer wants two short-hand (♥) ruffs.
- The diamond finesse is not needed and not recommended, just throw a diamond on the ♣ Queen and the other diamonds will be good.

Board 6 No Fit No Slam

East Dealer

East West Vulnerable

N	E	S	W
P	1NT	P	2♣
P	2♦	P	3♥
P	3NT	P	4NT
All Pass			

Opening Lead: ♥6

Very rarely from Jxxx or Qxx

Analysis:

- 4NT is quantitative
- When 5-4 in the majors, use Stayman and rebid the 5-card major at the two level showing 10+ HCP's.