

Smolen

Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club
Last Revised December 4, 2022

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<https://watsongallery.ca/bridge/aaBidding/Smolen.pdf>

Smolen is used at the three-level after a 2♦ response to Stayman. It shows five-four in the majors and is 10+. The short major is bid at the three-level so it is an effective transfer getting the strong hand to play the contract.

Smolen is never on at the two-level. The long major is bid at the two-level to show five-four and 8-9 HCP.

5-4 in the Majors with Smolen

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

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

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

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

1NT	2♣	
2♦	2♠	5 spades and 4 hearts (8-9 HCP)

5-4 in the Majors without Smolen

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

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

The following is the same with or without Smolen.

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

1NT	2♣	
2♦	2♠	5 spades and 4 hearts (8-9 HCP)

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