

Stayman

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Kootenay Jewel Bridge Club

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The most widely used and most frequently used convention of all conventions has to be Stayman.

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♣ | 3+ HCP's and a four card major |
| 2♣ | 2♦ | |
| 3NT (25-27) | 4♣ | 0+ HCP's and a four card major |
| | 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 to play |

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, bid 2♣ and pass any major response. If partner bids 2D, bid 2♠ to play.

Related Topics:

Puppet Stayman, Smolen, Super Gerber, Lead Direction

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 Axxxxx.

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