

# 5. Stayman with a Five-card Minor Revisited

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♠ A10 ♥ J98 ♦ AJ764 ♣ AQ10	♠ K73 ♥ 42 ♦ 83 ♣ K87532		♠ QJ864 ♥ A653 ♦ 5 ♣ 964
♠ 952 ♥ KQ107 ♦ KQ1092 ♣ J			
W	N	E	S
	1NT	P	2♣
P	2♦	P	3♦
P	4♦	P	4NT
P	5♣	P	5♦
All Pass			
--None 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 then bids 3 diamonds, now showing 10 points and a five-card diamond suit. Partner either bids 3NT, 4 diamonds or 5 diamonds. Going to game slowly shows South that North may be interested in slam because of a good diamond fit. South obliges and asks for keycards (the four Aces and the King of diamonds) signing off in 5 diamonds when partner has three.

**The contract:** 5 diamonds

**The Opening Lead:** 6 of spades

6 diamonds makes on a club lead, but East needs West to double Stayman 2 clubs before he thinks of leading a club. Leading a singleton trump is often good for the declarer and so is leading an Ace from Ace empty. Leading the 5 of diamonds or the Ace of hearts gives the declarer a jumpstart on his tasks.

The spade is a good lead. Either the Queen or the 6 could be chosen depending how one thinks the cards lie. If partner has Ax(x) or Kx(x), the 6 is the better lead to keep the suit unblocked. Experience has made me cautious leading the Queen. Declarer can win the Queen and finesse one out of the Jack if he has both the Ace and King.

**The Play:**

Declarer wins the opening lead and loses a spade and the Ace of hearts making 5 diamonds.

**Notes:**

- Roman Keycard Blackwood
- Similar to regular Blackwood except the King of trump is considered an Ace (keycard). Knowing about the King and Queen of trump can be critical to making a slam. The responses to 4NT are as follows.
  - 5 clubs                    0 or 3 keycards
  - 5 diamonds                1 or 4 keycards
  - 5 hearts    2 keycards w/o Queen of trump
  - 5 spades    2 keycards with Queen of trump
- South is the captain and could have signed off in 4 diamonds. He was a bit aggressive. The captain is the one who has the most information about his and his partner's hands.
- West may be able to defeat 2 clubs but he would double 2 clubs only for a lead and not for the possibility of defeating a partscore opponents have no intention of staying in. Therefore, West is wise not to double Stayman.