


8. Bidding Stayman with Nothing

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♠ KJ7			
♥ AK109			
♦ K86			
♣ Q52			
♠ AQ2		♠ 1096	
♥ Q53		♥ 64	
♦ A		♦ J10942	
♣ 1098764		♣ AKJ	
♠ 8543			
♥ J872			
♦ Q753			
♣ 3			
W	N	E	S
	1NT	P	2♣
P	2♥	All Pass	
--North-South Vulnerable--			

The Bidding:

North, with 15-17 points and a balanced hand opens 1NT.

To use Stayman, the responder requires 8 high card points (HCP's) except when one has the intention of passing whatever the opener responds. Then it is called trash Stayman, which is used with four or less points and a shortness in clubs.

The Rule of 22:

Normally, whichever side holds a total of 22 HCP's will either make 1NT or defeat 1NT. If South has 5 to 7 points, the partnership could have the 22 high card points for what should result in a successful 1NT contract.

The contract: 2 hearts with North as declarer

The Opening Lead: Ace of clubs

The Play:

After the ace of clubs, East switches to the jack of diamonds. Declarer ducks in dummy and West wins the diamond ace and plays clubs which declarer ruffs in dummy.

There seems to a possibility of a diamond ruff since West popped up with the ace because either he was short or he thought his partner was. So declarer draws two rounds of trump with the ace and king of hearts refusing a heart finesse.

Declarer ruffs his last club and then plays a little spade to his jack, but west takes the ace because the queen finesse will work for the declarer. West returns a club which declarer ruffs with the nine. West does not let declarer get back to the dummy (the board) to take another spade finesse by ruffing dummy's queen of diamonds.

Declarer will lose two spades, one heart, one diamond and one club to just make his contract. If West takes the queen of hearts or plays a spade when he gets in with the ace of spades, declarer will make 3 hearts. Making the declarer ruff yet another club is best.

Result: 2 hearts making +110

Without Trash Stayman:

The contract: 1NT

In 1NT, opponents should take six clubs, one spade and one diamond for down 2.

Result: 1NT down two for -200