

18. Revisiting Stayman but for the minors

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	♠ A43 ♥ 10942 ♦ AK4 ♣ A98																					
♠ 10975 ♥ KQJ8 ♦ 65 ♣ 1043			♠ QJ62 ♥ A753 ♦ 873 ♣ 76																			
	♠ K8 ♥ 6 ♦ QJ1092 ♣ KQJ52																					
	<table style="border-collapse: collapse; margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">W</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">N</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">E</td> <td style="padding: 0 10px;">S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2♠</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2NT</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3♠</td> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4♣</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">P</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6♦</td> <td style="text-align: center;">All Pass</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	W	N	E	S		1NT	P	2♠	P	2NT	P	3♥	P	3♠	P	4♣	P	6♦	All Pass		
W	N	E	S																			
	1NT	P	2♠																			
P	2NT	P	3♥																			
P	3♠	P	4♣																			
P	6♦	All Pass																				
--Both Vulnerable--																						

Minor Suit Stayman:

In response to 1NT, the two-spade bid transfers to clubs for a minor-suit bust. However, instead, a partnership may agree to use minor-suit Stayman. Now, two spades asks for a four-card minor and either shows a long minor or five-four (or better) in the minors with an interest in slam. The following example shows the case of five-five in the minors.

The bidding:

North opens 1NT with a balanced hand, and South, by bidding two spades, asks for a four-card minor. North does not have a four-card minor, so he can bid either 2NT or 3NT. If he has an interest in slam, he bids 2NT. Otherwise, North bids 3NT. If North had both four-card minors, he would have bid his better major.

To have an interest in slam, North must have very few soft values in the majors. Aces and kings opposite South's singletons and doubletons are valuable while queens and jacks are not. North should have a concentration of points in the minors to match South's concentration of cards.

After North's 2NT bid, South bids a singleton, which is hearts. North has no wasted heart values (ten high) and cuebids the ace of spades, his next ace up the line. If North did not like the singleton heart, he could have signed off in 3NT. If South had a void in hearts, he would have rebid hearts at the four-level. South shows that his better minor is clubs, but North prefers diamonds. North peels the cold contract of six diamonds.

The result:

six diamonds makes for +1370.