

Cardiff Bridge Tutors

How to use Stayman

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♣	

Stayman!



What are we trying to achieve with Stayman?

You use Stayman when there is the chance of making a game bid in a major suit after a No Trump opening bid between a partnership.

When do you use Stayman?

You can use Stayman after the first NT bid between your partnership.

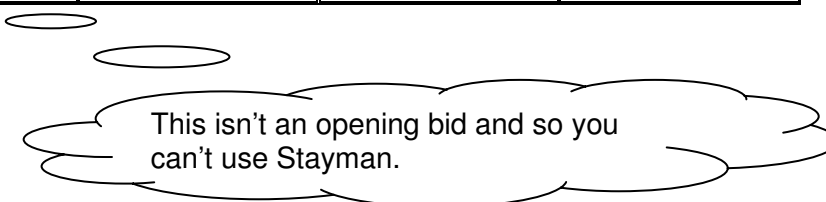
West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	Stayman OK	

West	North	East	South
2NT	Pass	Stayman OK	

West	North	East	South
1♥	1NT	Pass	Stayman OK

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	Pass	1NT
Pass	Stayman OK		

West	North	East	South
1♥	Pass	Pass	1♠
<u>1NT</u>	Pass	Not Stayman	



This isn't an opening bid and so you can't use Stayman.

What do I need to use Stayman?

You need a minimum number of points and at least one four card major.

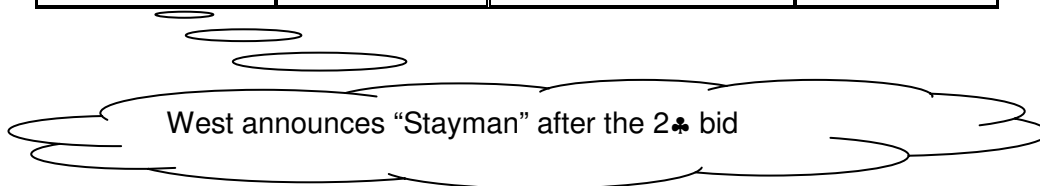
- After 1NT you need 11 or more points
- After 2NT you need 3 or more points
- At least one four card major

How do I use Stayman?

You make an artificial bid.

- You respond to a 1NT opening with a bid of 2♣
- You respond to a 2NT opening with a bid of 3♣

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♣	



How will my Partner know that this is Stayman?

You have to agree that you are using the Stayman convention and list it on your Convention Card.

What if I wanted to bid a natural 2♣s?

With every convention you lose something but gain a lot more. Bidding 2♣s over 1NT would be used as a weakness takeout and regrettably you would now have to bid 3♣s.

How do you respond to Stayman?

As soon as your partner bids 2 or 3♣s you must **announce "Stayman"**, you don't need to use the Alert card.

Then it depends on your hand.

1. If you have a four card major.

You bid it!

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♠			

I have four ♠s

Obviously if you had four ♥s you would bid 2♥s but as you will see this may have a special meaning.

2. If you have two four card majors.

You bid ♥s.

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥			

I have four ♥s and I might have four ♠s

Remember!
Hearts doesn't deny Spades.
Spades denies Hearts

3. You don't have a four card major.

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♦			

I don't have a four card major

I bid Stayman, what do I do with partner's response?

1. If Partner bid your four card major.

With 11 points bid 3 of the suit.

With 13+ points bid 4 of the suit or use your Slam bidding method.

With 12 points if not vulnerable why not risk game?

2. If Partner bid ♥s and you have ♠s.

Partner's bid didn't deny ♠s so bid 2♠s to see if they are interested. They will reply 2NT if they haven't got ♠s.

3. If Partner bid 2♦s and doesn't have a 4 card major.

With 11-12 points bid 2NT.

With 13-18 points bid 3NT.

With more points than 18 you should have used a Quantitative bid or bid a NT slam based on your combined points.

What if I have more than four cards in a major?

Normally you use "**Stayman for four, Transfers for more**" but if you have a five card and a four card major (and the points needed) then still use Stayman.

Summary.

- Used after the first NT bid between a Partnership
- Must have 11+ points to use after a 1NT opening
- Must have 3+ points to use after a 2NT opening
- Must have at least one four card major
- Use Stayman if you have a five and a four card major
- Opener announces “Stayman”
- Opener bids a four card major
 - ♥s doesn't deny ♠s
 - ♠s denies ♥s
 - ♦s no four card major held
- Offer or bid to game with points and fit
- Bid NT if Opener replied ♦s
- Use without points if it improves your bid – short ♣s!

Must I always have points to use Stayman?

There may be circumstances where using Stayman helps the partnership's bid.

Here is an extreme example to illustrate the point.

You are East and the bidding has gone

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	?	

You are holding:

♠ 9 7 6 2
♥ 5 4 3 2
♦ 8 7 5 4
♣ 2

What a time for a Yarborough!

However, if you bid Stayman then any reply from Partner would improve the contract and could be used as a weakness takeout.

What do I do if I wanted to make a weakness takeout in ♣s?

You can either bid 3♣ immediately or bid 2♣ and then bid 3♣s.