

Invitational Stayman Convention

What is Stayman?

- A bidding convention over partner's 1NT (15-17 HCPs) opener.
- 2♣ = Stayman, asking partner to bid a 4-card major if they have one.
- Promises at least 8 HCP and at least one 4-card major suit.

Why Use Stayman?

- To investigate for close games when we have a 4-4 major suit fit in a way that allows the 1NT hand to declare the contract.

1NT Responses to 2♣ Stayman

- 2♦ - 1NT opener does not have a 4-card major.
- 2♥ - 1NT opener has 4 hearts, could also have 4 spades.
- 2♠ - 1NT opener has 4 spades, denies 4 hearts.

Rebids by Responder

1NT Opener rebids 2D (denying a major):

- 3NT if you have at least 10 pts
- 2NT if you have 8-9 pts
 - 1NT opener should raise to 3NT with most 16 HCPs hands and all 17 HCPs hands (15-17 range).

1NT Opener rebids your 4-card major:

- Raise to 4 of that suit if you have game values: at least 10 support points.
- Raise to 3 of that suit if you have invitational values: 8-9 support points.
 - 1NT opener should go to game with a maximum 16-17 support points.

1NT Opener rebids a major suit you don't have:

- 3NT if you have at least 10 pts
 - 1NT opener corrects to 4♠ if they are 4-4 in the majors and responder denies hearts and therefore promises spades.
- 2NT if you have 8-9 pts
 - If the 1NT opener should correct to 3♠ (15 HCP) or 4♠ (16-17 HCP) if they are 4-4 in the majors and responder denies hearts and therefore promises spades.
 - If 3♠, responder can then decide on game if they have additional support points.
 - 1NT opener without 4 spades should raise to 3NT with most 16 HCP hands and all 17 HCP hands (15-17 range).

Stayman over 2NT (20-21 HCP) Openings

- You can use the Stayman Convention over 2NT when deciding between 3NT and a possible 4-4 major suit game. You must have a game forcing or better hand (6+ HCP) to use Stayman in this case.

Invitational Stayman Convention Worksheet

What would you respond with these hands?

Your Hand	Auction	Your Bid
1. ♠Q873, ♥AJ32, ♦J92, K6	1NT - ?	
2. ♠Q872, ♥J952, ♦932, Q6	1NT - ?	
3. ♠K74, ♥A94, ♦AQ, ♣KJ1072	1NT – 2C (Stayman) – ?	
4. ♠K74, ♥A964, ♦AQ, ♣KJ72	1NT – 2C (Stayman) – ?	
5. ♠AK74, ♥J964, ♦AJ3, ♣KJ7	1NT – 2C (Stayman) – ?	
6. ♠K872, ♥A952, ♦K32, 86	1NT – 2C (Stayman) – 2H - ?	
7. ♠K872, ♥QJ52, ♦K32, 86	1NT – 2C (Stayman) – 2D - ?	
8. ♠K872, ♥QJ52, ♦K932, 8	1NT – 2C (Stayman) – 2S - ?	
9. ♠AK74, ♥K64, ♦A73, ♣K74	1NT – 2C (Stayman) – 2S – 2NT - ?	
10. ♠K872, ♥A42, ♦Q932, 84	1NT – 2C (Stayman) – 2H – 2NT – 3S - ?	