Stayman I

After partner opens 1NT, a 2♣ response, the Stayman convention, facilitates finding a 4-4 major fit and choosing the appropriate level. Generally a major fit plays better than NT. The 2♣ response asks opener to bid a 4-card major or deny such a holding by bidding 2♦. Both of these bids are artificial but so common no alert is necessary.

Specified Responses

Opener Rebid	Meaning
2♦	Opener lacks a 4+card major
2♥	Opener has 4-card ♥ suit; may have 4-card ♠
2♠	Opener has 4-card ♠ suit only

Requirement

With rare exceptions, here are the minimum requirements for using Stayman:

- ❑ 8+ points
- ❑ At least one 4-card major
- ❑ At least one short suit, i.e., a doubleton

Responder Rebids (8+ or 9 points)

Responder rebids 2NT without a 4-4 major fit; this is the same meaning as just responding 2NT when you don't have a 4-card major. Otherwise, finding a major fit, Responder reevaluates: (i) if under 10 points, rebids 3 of the major; or, (ii) jumps to the major game. The 2NT and 3 of a major bids are <u>invitational</u>; Opener goes to game if holding 16+.

Responder Rebids (10+ points)

Responder rebids 3NT without a 4-4 major fit; otherwise finding a fit, Responder rebids game in the major. Opener removes 3NT in only one case: <u>When holding both majors, Opener corrects 3NT to 4♠</u>, knowing that Responder must have a 4-card major.

Stayman with a Weak Hand (Under 6 points)

With a weak hand, there are two hand distributions with which Responder may use Stayman: when holding at least 4 cards in ♠, ♥, and ♦, which leaves zero or one card in ♣s. Note: With a weak hand and 5+cards in either major, use Jacoby Transfer and Pass.

For example, with ♠J742 ♥ Q963 ♦T942 ♣ 3 use Stayman but Pass any bid Opener makes. This is called "Garbage Stayman" and may not be used with any other distribution or strength.

Quiz 26: Stayman I

Your Partner opens 1NT. Pick your response and write it using the ____ in the "1st Response" column. If you choose 2♣ for Stayman, write in the "2nd Bid" column, your bid if Partner bids 2♦, 2♥, or 2♠ (top to bottom).

	1st Response	2nd Bid	Your Hand		1st Response	2nd Bid	Your Hand
1.	1NT – P – ____	___ ___ ___	♠ AQT4 ♥ J532 ♦ 7 ♣ K854	2.	1NT – P – ____	___ ___ ___	♠ 97543 ♥ 965 ♦ KJT4 ♣ T
3.	1NT – P – ____	___ ___ ___	♠ AK32 ♥ 73 ♦ Q97432 ♣ T	4.	1NT – P – ____	___ ___ ___	♠ QT63 ♥ KQJT ♦ 82 ♣ 765
5.	1NT – P – ____	___ ___ ___	♠ AQ7 ♥ J43 ♦ J754 ♣ Q83	6.	1NT – P – ____	___ ___ ___	♠ JT53 ♥ K843 ♦ JT876 ♣ -