

Stayman I

After partner opens 1NT showing 15-17 points and a balanced hand, a 2♣ response, the Stayman convention, facilitates finding a 4-4 major fit, choosing the appropriate level and ensuring the strong hand is declarer. Generally, a major 4-4 fit scores better than NT. The 2♣ response asks opener to bid a 4-card major or deny such a holding by bidding 2♦. Both the 2♣ and 2♦ bids are artificial but so common that no alert is necessary.

Opener Responses After 1NT - 2♣

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 some 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 locating a 4-4 major fit; this has the same meaning and strength as just responding 2NT. Otherwise, finding a major fit, Responder reevaluates: (i) if holding 8+ to 9 points, rebids 3 of the major; or, (ii) jumps to the major game if Responder's hand reevaluates to 10+ points. The 2NT and 3 of a major are invitational bids; 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: When holding both majors, Opener corrects 3NT to 4♠, 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 and Pass any bid Opener makes. This is called "Garbage Stayman" and may not be used with any other distribution or strength.

Quiz 1: Stayman I

Your Partner opens 1NT. Pick your response and write it in the "1st Response" column. Write your rebid if Partner bids 2♦, 2♥, or 2♠ (top to bottom).

	1 st Response	2 nd Bid	Your Hand		1 st Response	2 nd 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 ♣ JT9
5.	1NT – P – ____	—	♠ J754 ♥ J43 ♦ AJ7 ♣ Q83	6.	1NT – P – ____	—	♠ JT53 ♥ K843 ♦ JT876 ♣ -

Here you have opened 1NT, Partner has bid 2♣ and it is you call.

	1 st Round	2 nd Bid	Your Hand		1 st Round	2 nd Bid	Your Hand
1.	1NT – P – 2♣ – P	—	♠ AKQT ♥ J532 ♦ K7 ♣ K85	2.	1NT – P – 2♣ – P	—	♠ KJ3 ♥ T965 ♦ AKQ ♣ K43
3.	1NT – P – 2♣ – P	—	♠ AQ3 ♥ Q73 ♦ 32 ♣ AKJT4	4.	1NT – P – 2♣ – P	—	♠ QT ♥ KQJ96 ♦ A82 ♣ KJT
5.	1NT – P – 2♣ – 2♦	—	♠ QJ7 ♥ KQ43 ♦ A76 ♣ AJ8	6.	1NT – P – 2♣ – P 2♥ – P – 3NT – P	—	♠ QJT5 ♥ K843 ♦ AJT ♣ KQ

