

STAYMAN BRIDGE CONVENTION

Stayman Convention – One of the most popular conventions used by Bridge players, using a 2C response to partner's 1 Notrump or 2 Notrump opening bid to locate a major suit fit.



Sam Stayman's tournament partner George Rapee introduced the artificial 2 Club response to partner's 1 Notrump opener. However, George was less interested in popularizing the conventional treatment than enjoying the benefits of its use, generously allowing Stayman its namesake in 1945. Throughout the years, the Stayman convention has been one of the top three conventions in the card game of Bridge.

Partner opens the bidding 1NT, let's assume your opening range is 15-17 points and balanced.

WHEN:

1. You hold at least one 4-card major suit, and
2. You have a shortage in your hand, such as a worthless doubleton or singleton, or void, and
3. You have enough points to invite game ... [at least 8 HCP or more]

OPENER MUST MAKE ONE OF 3 REBIDS:

- 2D = No 4-card major
- 2H = 4-card heart suit
- 2S = 4-card spade suit

[Holding both 4-hearts and 4-spades, opener would bid hearts first, bidding up the line]

WHEN SHOULD YOU USE STAYMAN?

If you have enough points to make game a possibility, you should use Stayman in each of these situations:

- Your hand pattern is 4-4-4-1 [you must hold a 4-card major]
 - Your hand pattern is 4-4-3-2 including at least one 4-card major
 - You hold both majors in a 4-4, 5-4, 6-4, 5-5 or 6-6 pattern
 - You hold a 5-card minor but a 4-card major as well. Use Stayman to search for the major fit.
- It is preferable not to use Stayman if your hand pattern is 4-3-3-3, as you have no ruffing ability
- If you cannot ruff, why play in trumps? Stick to No-trumps
- Use the principle “NO Shortage = NO Stayman”

A 2NT rebid by RESPONDER or raising opener's major is inviting game.

A change of suit by the RESPONDER promises a 5-card suit e.g. 1NT: 2C:
2H: 2S