

# STAYMAN, TRANSFERS, CHECKBACK STAYMAN AND PUPPET STAYMAN

## STAYMAN

Stayman recognises the importance of a 4-4 major suit fit, only use Stayman when you can cope with any response your partner could make

Use Stayman over :

- 1) 1NT opening bids
- 2) 1NT overcalls
- 3) 2NT opening bids
- 4) 2♣ opening bids if followed by a 2NT rebid (showing 23/24HCP)

Consider using Puppet Stayman over opening bids (or rebids, as in 4 above) where the hand can contain a 5 card major

## EXAMPLES OF STAYMAN

If you have 8HCP (over a strong 1NT opener) or 11HCP (over a weak 1NT opener) - if partner denies a major by bidding 2♦ you can bid 2NT (invitational to game)

Use Stayman even with a weak hand if you have 5 of one major and 4 of the other :

♠ J 10 7 6 5    ♥ K 6 4 2    ♦ Q    ♣ 8 5 2

Bid 2♣\* - if partner bids 2♥ or 2♠ you have a fit so pass - if partner bids 2♦ you can bid 2♠

You can bid Stayman if you have a very weak hand and are short in ♣'s - with this hand bid 2♣\* and then pass whatever partners response is :

♠ J 8 6 3    ♥ 10 7 4    ♦ Q J 8 7 5    ♣ 10

You may find a 4-4 ♠ fit or a 4-3 ♥ fit or a 5-2 ♦ fit at worse - all will probably play better than 1NT

## PUPPET STAYMAN (5 card stayman)

This is mainly used over a 2NT opening bid or over an opening 2♣ if followed by a 2NT rebid (showing 23/24HCP) both of which may contain a 5 card major :

Bid 3♣\* asking for either 5 or 4 card majors - if partner has a 5 card major he bids it (3♥ or 3♠)

If partner bids 3NT over your 3♣\* enquiry he has neither a 5 or 4 card major

If partner bids 3♦ over your 3♣\* enquiry he has at least one 4 card major

Over openers 3♦ response to your 3♣\* enquiry; 3NT denies a 4 card major; with one major responder bids the suit he has not got - i.e. 3♥ shows ♠'s and 3♠ shows ♥'s; if responder has both 4 card majors he bids 4♦ to let opener choose the final contract

All this ensures the strong hand will always be declarer

## TRANSFERS

Transfer bids are used over 1NT opening bids, 1NT overcalls, 2NT opening bids an 2♣ opening bids if followed by a 2NT rebid (showing 23/24HCP); the same as when Stayman is used

Reasons for using transfer bids :

- 1) Usually the opening hand is the stronger and transfers keep it concealed
- 2) A trick is often gained from the opening lead going round to the stronger hand
- 3) It gives more options when trying to judge the final contract

You should always transfer if you hold a 5 card major; you should only transfer to a minor (via 2NT) if you are considering a slam or have a weak unbalanced hand with a 6+ card minor

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## Over 1NT :

- 2♦ Shows at least 5♥'s – asks partner to bid 3♥
- 2♥ Shows at least 5♠'s – asks partner to bid 2♠
- 2♠ Shows 8/9HCP (strong NT system) or 11/12HCP (weak NT system)
- 2NT Transfer to a minor - asks partner to bid 3♣ which will either be passed or converted to 3♦

Transfers give you plenty of options if you hold a 5 card major and have 8/9 (strong NT system) or 11/12HCP (weak NT system) :

1NT - 2♥\* - 2♠ - 2NT (responders rebid shows 8/9 strong NT system or 11/12 weak NT system)

- 1) Opener with a minimum and only 2♠'s should pass
- 2) Opener with a maximum and only 2♠'s should bid 3NT
- 3) Opener with a minimum and 3+ ♠'s should bid 3♠
- 4) Opener with a maximum and 4+ ♠'s should bid 4♠

1NT - 2♥\* - 2♠ - 3♠ responders rebid shows 6♠'s and 8/9 (strong NT system) or 11/12 weak NT system)

- 5) Opener with a minimum and only 2♠'s (or with 3♠'s and a very poor minimum) should pass 3♠
- 6) Opener with a maximum and 2+ ♠'s should bid 4♠

## Over strong 2NT openings & 2NT rebids after a 2♣ opening showing 23/24HCP :

- 3♦ Shows at least 5♥'s – asks partner to bid 3♥
- 3♥ Shows at least 5♠'s – asks partner to bid 3♠
- 3♠ Shows 5♠'s **AND** 4♥'s

## Super Accepts

This is used if partner transfers over your 1NT opening bid and you hold 4/5 of the suit they are transferring you to

- 1) 1NT - 2♦\* - 2NT shows 4/5 ♥'s and a maximum opening HCP range
- 2) Responder must repeat the transfer by bidding 3♦ and can either pass 3♥ or bid 4♥
- 3) 1NT - 2♦\* - 3♥ - shows 4/5 ♥'s and a minimum opening HCP range

With a 9 card fit in the suit you can afford to play at the 3 level even if partner was going to pass over the transfer

## **CHECK BACK STAYMAN**

Check back is generally used after a 1NT rebid; it is useful if you are trying to find a 5-3 or a 4-4 fit in a major suit (for example 1♥ - 1♠ - 1NT) : it can also be used over a 2NT rebid (e.g. 1♥ - 1♠ - 2NT)

Again just like normal stayman you must have a response for any of the replies partner may give and by using check back you must be interested in a fit in one of the majors

1♦ - 1♠ - 2♣\* (is check back) looking for either a 4-4 ♥ fit or a 5-3 ♠ fit

- 1) 2♦ response denies 4 ♥'s or 3♠'s
- 2) 2♥ shows 4♥'s and does not deny 3♠'s
- 3) 2♠ shows 3♠'s and denies 4♥'s

1♥ - 1♠ - 2♣\* (is check back) looking for a 5-3 ♠ fit

- 4) Only responses are 2♦ denying 3♠'s or 2♠ showing 3 card ♠ support