

STAYMAN
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Stayman

This is probably the most well-known convention (this or Blackwood) in bridge. It is used after a notrump bid to look for an 8-card major suit fit. After partner's 1NT opening, responder will want to look for a 4-4 major suit fit, with say: ♠A Q 6 5 ♥6 5 ♦K J 8 7 ♣J 3 2. To ask opener if he has a 4-card major, he responds 2♣.

After a 1NT opening (or overcall), 2♣ asks the 1NT bidder about majors.

The responses to 2♣ are:

2♦ = No 4-card major

2♥ = 4 (or 5) hearts

2♠ = 4 (or 5) spades

After opener's rebid

Here is the brief overview of what it means if the **Stayman** bidder takes further action:

On the 2-level, everything is natural and not forcing (example: 1N-2♣; 2♦-2♥).

On the 3-level, a raise is invitational, of course. Other 3-level bids (using **LC Standard**) are discussed [here](#).

On the 4-level, a raise to game is to play, other bids are **splinter** bids (example: 1N-2♣; 2♥-4♣).

Partnerships wishing to cover most of the details can read about them [here](#).

The **Stayman** bidder should usually have at least invitational values. The only exceptions would be:

A) A hand that is willing to pass anything opener answers (including 2♦)

B) A hand that has both majors (at least 4-4) and is willing to pass 2♥/2♠ or correct a 2♦ answer to 2♥ to show a weak hand with both majors

After a 2NT opener (or non-jump overcall), 3♣ is **Stayman** with the same schedule of responses (a level higher).

Puppet Stayman

Some partnerships use this variation of **Stayman** which uncovers not only 4-card majors, but also 5-card majors. I recommend it only for very experienced players, and only on the 3-level. I like 2♣ to be regular **Stayman** because it allows for various weak responses (with the ability to stop on the 2-level). In **LC Standard**, I prefer to use **Puppet Stayman** only as a jump to 3♣ after 1NT. (After a 2NT opening, I don't like **Puppet Stayman** because it is hard to show 5-4 in the majors). .