

Wajahat's Question : This pertains to minor fits- when 1NT opener has 4 card minor and 4card major and responder is looking for minor fit. For example-

♠-A K 2 3

♠-5 7

♥-K 5

♥-A 6 4

♦-K J 8 9

♦-A Q 7 6

♣-Q 5 6

♣-K J 2 3

--How to bid hands like this? On 2Club stayman the reply is 2 spade Is it advisable to cross 3-notrump level? Not too sure of slam in minor unless the diamond fit is there! How to tackle this problem?

Sridhar's views :

In my earlier answer I had mentioned that 2C stayman, followed by 3C relay can help in locating minor fits at 3 level ; in your above example it works easily :

1N – 2C

2S--- 3C(RELAY)

3D- NATURAL

3D establishes the diamond fit below 3N level and after this the problem of whether to cross 3N or not is matter of judgement on slam ; with above hand , for eg, over 3D I will bid 3H, showing dia fit and suggesting higher ambition than 3N, opener can cross 3N easily; over this slam can be reached since opener is looking at doubleton KX opposite your likely fragment in Hearts. Even , if opener doesn't , the responder with 14 HCP should not be worried about playing in 4N, if he is going to reach there trying for slam