



2TR Stayman

The 2♣ Stayman is a conventionnal bid.

In response to a 1NT opening, a 2♣ bid is a Stayman, looking for an eight-card fit in a major suit. It promises:

- at least 8 HCP
- and at least 4 cards in one of the majors. It is also used with both majors, 4-4 or 5-4.

Avoid using this convention when you hold a 4333 hand with scattered honors. These hands are too balanced to work well in a trump game. You'd rather play a NT game (9 tricks instead of 10)

2♣ Stayman is forcing for one round, indeed !

S	W	N	E
		1 NT	Pass
3 NT			

K	5	4	3	Q	4	3	Q	10	3	Q	J	5
♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦

Problem E2062 3NT Even though you've got 4 ♠ cards, don't use the Stayman 2♣ conventional bid. You have a balanced hand, no ruffing added value. Your pair's points are 25-27 HCP. Try a NT game.

S	W	N	E
		1 NT	Pass
2♣			

4	3	Q	10	9	3	A	Q	J	9	4	3	4
♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♣	♦

Problem E2068 2♣ First, try to find a ♥ fit. With at least 8 HCP, start bidding 2♣ (Stayman) to look for a fit in one of the majors. That's a priority !



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Bidding development : the opener's rebid after his partner's 2♣.

- 2♦ when he has no major 4th
- 2♥ with 4♥ cards (or 2♠ with 4♠ cards)
- 2♥ with both 4♠ and 4♥ cards. The opener has the option to bid ♠ later if his partner's 4 carder happens to be ♠. Many players bid 2NT to indicate both majors, but this is giving useful (but unnecessary) information to the opponents.

The responder's 2nd bid after the opener has named a major suit.

- With 8 HCP the responder proposes game in NT or in the major suit (when there is a fit, of course). The opener will pass with a minimum hand (15 HCP) or go to game if maximum.
- With 10 HCP or more the responder goes directly to game either in NT or in the fitted major. The pair's combined points are enough for game (minimum 15 + 10 = 25)

A	10	9	K	Q	10	9	7	6	A	Q	10	8
♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦
S			W			N			E			
						1 NT			Pass			
2 ♣			Pass			2 ♥			Pass			
3 ♥												
K	5	A	J	8	4	5	4	3	7	6	5	3
♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦

Problem E4899 With a minimum Stayman (8 HCP), propose game and let your partner decide.

A	10	9	K	Q	10	9	7	6	A	Q	10	8
♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦
S			W			N		E				
						1 NT		Pass				
2 ♣			Pass			2 ♥		Pass				
4 ♥			Pass									
K	Q	8	A	J	8	4	4	2	J	6	5	3
♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦

Problem E5006 With a support and at least 10 HCP (here, you have 11 HCP), go to game.



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Bidding development : when the opener bids 2♥ with 4 cards in both majors

If the responder has 8 HCP but no ♥ support, he bids 2NT, proposing a NT game. Then, the opener bids:

- 3♠ if minimum
- 4♠ if maximum.

If the responder has 9 HCP or more, but no ♥ support, he bids 3NT. All the opener has to do is shift to 4♠.

With this system, when there is a ♥ fit, the opponents have no information about the opener's hand. With a 2NT response to the 2♣ Stayman, the opponents know exactly what the opener's distribution is... 4332

Q	10	9	4	A	K	8	6	A	Q	5	7	4
♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦
S	W	N	E									
		1 NT	Pass									
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass									
4 ♥												
K	J	10	7	4	3	4	3	2	A	K	6	3
♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦

Problem E8008 With 10 HCP and a ♥ support, go to game. The opener will be the declarer and his ♣ tenace will be protected. With both majors, don't use the 2NT bid (it's both unnecessary and dangerous!)



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Response to the opener's 2♦ rebid, with both majors 5-4.

With less than 10 HCP, the responder bids :

- 2♥ with 5 ♥ cards
- 2♠ with 5 ♠ cards.

The opener will go to game when he is maximum.

With 10 HCP or more, the responder uses the Smolen conventional method. He bids his four-card major at level 3 :

- 3♥ with 4 ♥ cards and 5 ♠ cards
- 3♠ with 4 ♠ cards and 5 ♥ cards

The opener can then declare 4♠ or 4♥ with support, 3NT without.

Q	5	K	6	4	Q	J	5	4	A	K	9	7
♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♣	♣	♦	♦	♦	♦
S	W	N	E									
		1 NT	Pass									
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦	Pass									
2 ♠												
A	J	10	6	4	Q	J	7	5	7	2	6	4
♠	♠	♠	♠	♠	♥	♥	♥	♥	♣	♣	♦	♦

Problem E8036 With 5 ♠ cards and 8 HCP, the responder bids his major 5th. The opener will decide accordingly, and maybe pass.