

IMPROVERS' LESSONS

Franklin Bridge Club

Christine Egelmeer
Linda Thornton
Lynne Geursen



Lesson One

Stayman Convention

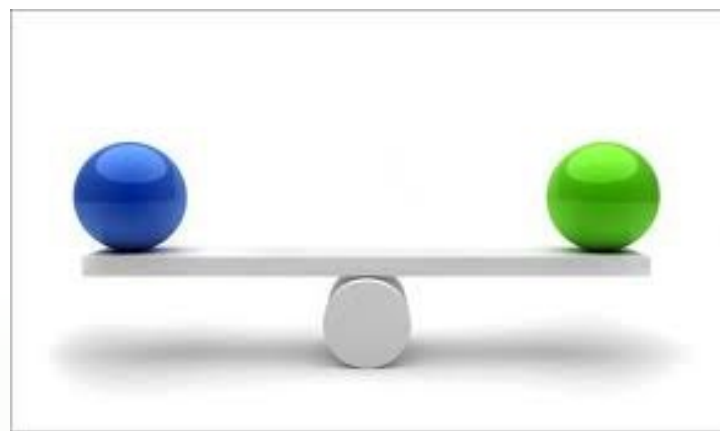


Basic Rules for Opening 1NT

- **12 - 14 HCP**

- **Balanced Hand**

- No singleton or void
- Only one doubleton
- No 5-card major



This bid is your FIRST choice of opening bid



CURRENT Responses to 1NT

- WITH A BALANCED HAND
 - 0 – 10 HCP ... no GAME possible ... PASS
 - 11 – 12 HCP ... GAME is possible ... Bid 2NT
 - 13+ HCP ... definitely in GAME ... Bid 3NT

These are going to
change



CURRENT Responses to 1NT

- WITH AN UNBALANCED HAND
 - 0 – 10 HCP ... no GAME possible ... Bid your longest suit at the lowest possible level
 - 13+ HCP ... Bid your 5-card suit at the 3-level
 - 13+ HCP ... Bid your 6-card major at the 4-level

ALL of these are going to change after both lessons tonight



WHAT IS WRONG WITH THIS?

- It is better to play in a major than it is to play in Notrumps
- It is difficult to make an invitational bid
- We can't ever find a 4 / 4 fit in a major

Therefore, we use the Stayman Convention



WHO INVENTED STAYMAN?

- Sam Stayman got all the credit because he wrote about it first
- It was actually invented by Sam's partner George Rapee
- Jack Marx also came up with the concept the same time as George



WHY USE STAYMAN?

- To find a 4 – 4 fit in a major and escape playing in NT

The Stayman convention is a bid of 2♣ in response to a 1NT opener



WHEN TO USE STAYMAN?

- You hold at least one 4-card major
- And 11+ HCP
- Later tonight you'll learn what to do when you have a weak hand and a long suit

The Stayman convention is a bid of 2♣ in response to a 1NT opener



EXAMPLES ... Stayman or Not?

- Partner opens 1NT

Your bid?

2♣

A ♠	J ♠	5 ♠	4 ♠
		K ♥	8 ♥
	9 ♣	7 ♣	3 ♣
K ♦	J ♦	7 ♦	3 ♦

Enough HCP to consider game ...
Check for a 4-4 spade fit first



EXAMPLES ... Stayman or Not?

- Partner opens 1NT

Your bid?

2♣

K	8	7	3	
♠	♠	♠	♠	
A	Q	5	4	
♥	♥	♥	♥	
		9	7	
		♣	♣	
K	Q	7		
♦	♦	♦		

Enough HCP for game ...
Check for a 4-4 heart or spade fit first



EXAMPLES ... Stayman or Not?

- Partner opens 1NT

Your bid?

PASS

J ♠	5 ♠	4 ♠	2 ♠	
		8 ♥	6 ♥	
	9 ♣	6 ♣	2 ♣	
A ♦	K ♦	6 ♦	4 ♦	

Even though you have a 4-card major, your hand is too weak



HOW TO RESPOND TO STAYMAN

1NT – 2♣ - ?

- 2♦ - I don't have a 4-card major
- 2♥ - I have 4 hearts (I might have 4 spades)
- 2♠ - I have 4 spades (I don't have 4 hearts)

2♣ says ... “Have you got a 4-card major?”
Opener MUST answer the question



EXAMPLES ... Responding to Stayman

K	8	7	
♠	♠	♠	
A	Q	9	
♥	♥	♥	
J	8	6	4
♣	♣	♣	♣
A	8	6	
♦	♦	♦	

1NT

2♦

A	J	5	4
♠	♠	♠	♠
		K	8
		♥	♥
	9	7	3
	♣	♣	♣
K	J	7	3
♦	♦	♦	♦

2♣

No 4-card major



EXAMPLES ... Responding to Stayman

A	Q	9	
♠	♠	♠	
K	8	7	2
♥	♥	♥	♥
J	8		
♣	♣		
A	8	6	2
♦	♦	♦	♦

1NT

2♥

K	8	7	3
♠	♠	♠	♠
A	Q	5	4
♥	♥	♥	♥
		9	7
		♣	♣
K	Q	7	
♦	♦	♦	

2♣

4-card heart suit



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

1NT – 2♣ - 2♦ / 2♥ / 2♠ - ?

- Bid straight to game with a fit and game HCP
- Bid straight to 3NT with no fit in the major and game HCP
- Invite in a major (with a fit)
- Invite in 2NT (with no fit)
- Correct to 2♠ if your partner has denied ♥ and you have 4 spades



EXAMPLES ... Full bidding (1)

K	8	7	
♠	♠	♠	
A	Q	9	
♥	♥	♥	
J	8	6	4
♣	♣	♣	♣
A	8	6	
♦	♦	♦	

1NT

2♦

3NT

A	J	5	4
♠	♠	♠	♠
		K	8
		♥	♥
	9	7	3
	♣	♣	♣
K	J	7	3
♦	♦	♦	♦

2♣

2NT



EXAMPLES ... Full bidding (2)

A	Q	9	
♠	♠	♠	
K	8	7	2
♥	♥	♥	♥
J	8		
♣	♣		
A	8	6	2
♦	♦	♦	♦

1NT

2♥

K	8	7	3	
♠	♠	♠	♠	
A	Q	5	4	
♥	♥	♥	♥	
		9	7	
		♣	♣	
		K	Q	7
		♦	♦	♦

2♣

4♥



EXAMPLES ... Full bidding (3)

A	Q	9	
♠	♠	♠	
K	8	7	2
♥	♥	♥	♥
J	8		
♣	♣		
A	8	6	2
♦	♦	♦	♦

1NT

2♥

K	8	7	3
♠	♠	♠	♠
	A	Q	5
	♥	♥	♥
Q	7	3	2
♣	♣	♣	♣
		K	Q
		♦	♦

2♣

3NT

Note ... East must have 4 spades



EXAMPLES ... Full bidding (4)

A	Q	9	2
♠	♠	♠	♠
K	8	7	2
♥	♥	♥	♥
J	8		
♣	♣		
A	8	6	
♦	♦	♦	

1NT

2♥

4♠

K	8	7	3
♠	♠	♠	♠
	A	Q	5
	♥	♥	♥
Q	7	3	2
♣	♣	♣	♣
		K	Q
		♦	♦

2♣

3NT

Convert to spades



STAYMAN CAN ALSO BE USED FOR STRONG HANDS

- Use after a 1NT overcall
 - Invitational hands are now 8+ HCP
- Use over 2NT openings
 - The bid is 3 ♣



EXAMPLES ... Full bidding (7)



2NT

3♦



3♣

3NT



EXAMPLES ... Full bidding (8)

... after a 1♦ opening

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

Q	10	7	2
♠	♠	♠	♠
		K	9
		♥	♥
	K	5	3
	♣	♣	♣
8	7	6	2
♦	♦	♦	♦

1NT (overcall)

2♠

4♠

2♣

3♠

Maximum, bid game



IMPROVERS' LESSONS

Let's play a few hands.
Do you have any questions?

NZB♣**ridge**

