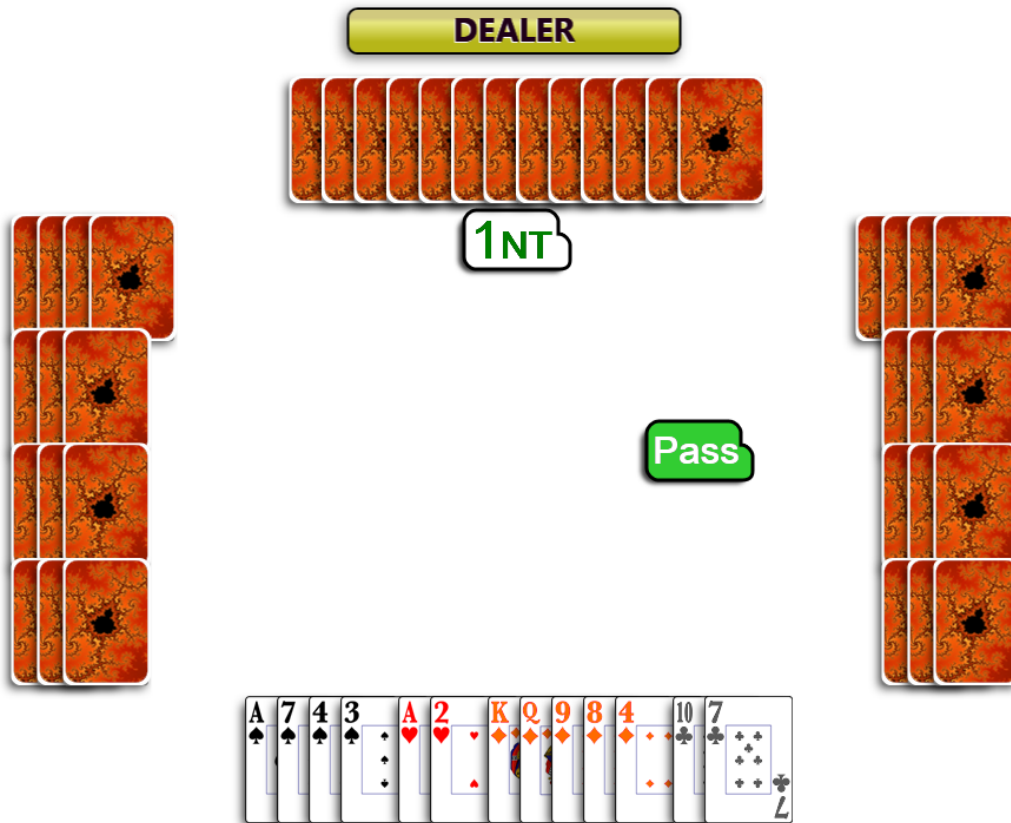


REVISION EXERCISE 5

You are south with partner (north) as dealer:

North opens



What should you bid?

2♣

2♦

3♠

2NT

3NT

Explain your decision.

DO NOT GO TO THE NEXT PAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE ANSWERED.

You should have responded 2♣.



This is the Stayman convention. It is used with sufficient values to invite game with one or both 4-card majors, and a short suit.



This is a weak takeout in diamonds that opener will pass. Game will be missed.



This shows a hand with game values and a 5+ card major. Spades is a 4-card suit.



This shows a hand with 11–12 HCPs and no 4-card major. Neither is the case here.



This shows a hand with 13+ HCPs and no 4-card major. The hand is strong enough but spades is a 4-card major.

Why Stayman?

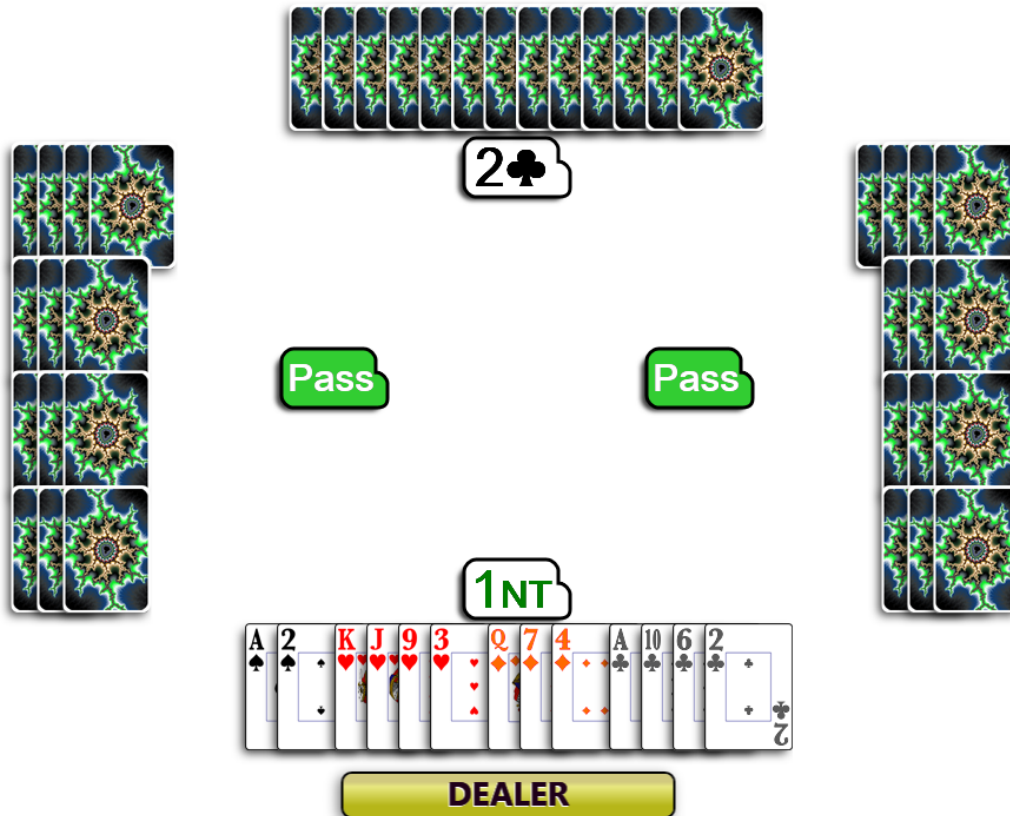
Playing in game in a major suit fit requires 10 tricks whereas playing in 3NT only requires nine. Why then is a major preferred? As it happens, on average it is somewhat more likely that the major suit game succeeds rather than 3NT, even though one extra trick is required.

Requirements for responding with Stayman

1. 11+ HCPs, enough to invite game. The final contract will be at least 2NT but is frequently higher.
2. Four cards in one or both majors. A frequent misconception is that Stayman is not used when both majors are held.
3. At least one short suit – doubleton or shorter. The logic is: why play in a suit if you have no ruffing potential? So 4–3–3–3 hands do not use Stayman. Frequently forgotten.

You are south as dealer:

You open and partner responds with 2♣ – Stayman



What should you bid?

2♥

3♥

3NT

Explain your decision.

DO NOT GO TO THE NEXT PAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE ANSWERED.

You should have responded 2♥.



This shows four hearts. You may or may not have four spades as well.



The only valid rebids after Stayman are 2♥ and 2♠, even if you do have enough for game.

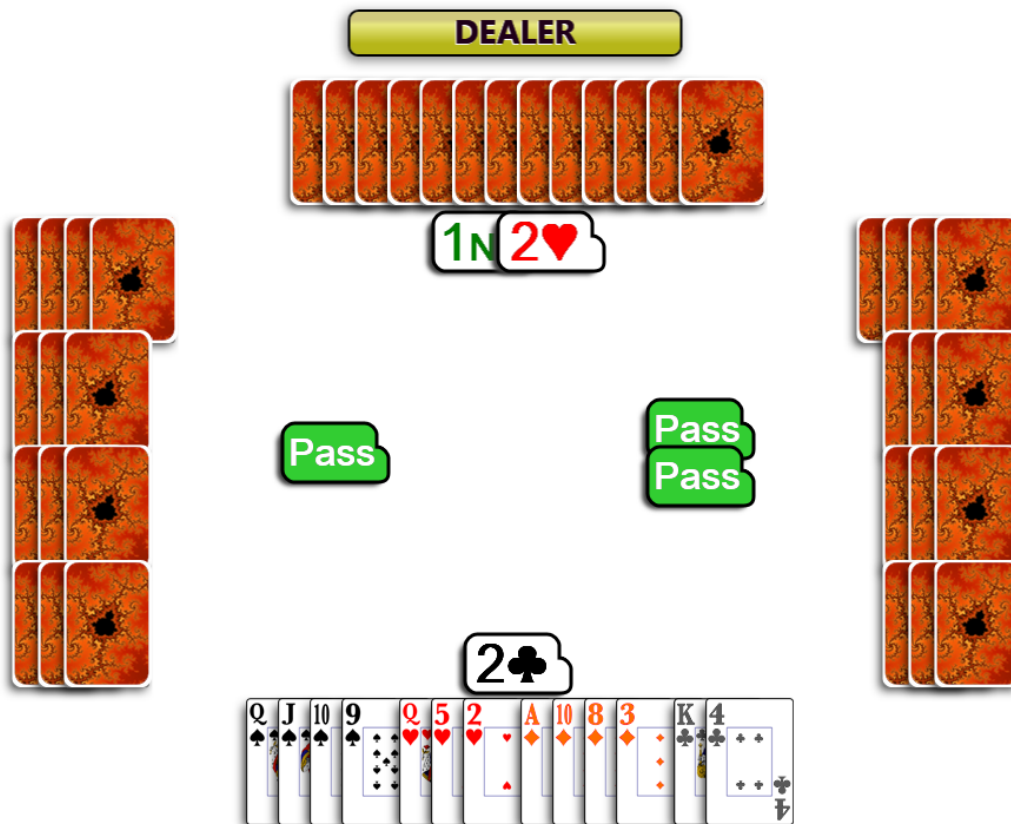
Responder is in control of the auction, not opener.



The same applies.

You are south with partner (north) as dealer:

The bidding is as shown



What should you bid?



Explain your decision.

DO NOT GO TO THE NEXT PAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE ANSWERED.

You should have responded 2NT.



When no fit is found, responder never bids the major suit held.
2♠ does not have a natural meaning within the Stayman convention.



Shows 11-12 HCPs (game invitational) and no fit with opener's major.



Opener has four hearts. Opener cannot have five hearts as otherwise 1♥ would have been bid rather than 1NT. Therefore, no 8-card fit can exist.



Shows 13+ HCPs (game already) and no fit with opener's major.

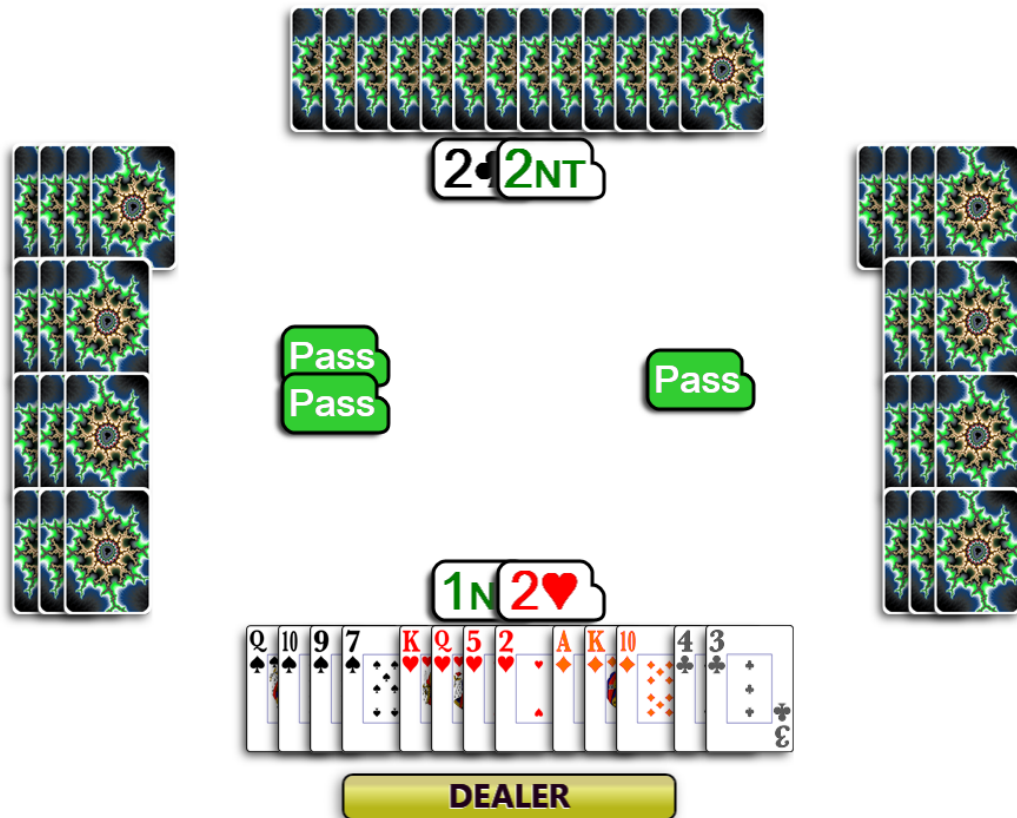
Probably the most common error by responder after using Stayman is to bid their own major should opener have rebid the other one. When responder in this case bids 2NT, opener already knows responder has four spades. Why?

- Responder does not have four hearts as otherwise responder would have supported hearts.
- Responder must have four spades or otherwise would not have used Stayman in the first place.

Memory jogger: the Stayman bidder never bids a NEW suit.

You are south as dealer:

The bidding is as shown



What should you bid?

Pass

3♠

3NT

4♠

Explain your decision.

DO NOT GO TO THE NEXT PAGE UNTIL YOU HAVE ANSWERED.

You should have responded 4♠.

Pass

The hand has 14 HCPs – game values. Game must be bid somewhere

3♠

It is correct that a spade fit is present, but the hand has game values.

3NT

A spade fit exists, therefore spades must be bid.

4♠

With 15 TP's including the club shortage, the spade game is bid.

The second common mistake with Stayman is opener's failure to correct to spades when both majors are held and responder has not supported 2♥ (i.e. bid 2NT or 3NT).

Stayman is very widely used but is misused rather a lot. Try to understand what lies behind the convention (trying to find a 4–4 major suit fit) and working through the bidding consequences based on that knowledge.

QUIZ

You have this hand:



Partner has opened 1NT and you have correctly responded 2♣ Stayman.

What is your rebid after partner's rebid of:

1. 2♦	2. 2♥	3. 2♠
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[Submit your answer](#)