

# Stayman on Steroids

---

Make the Most of the Captain's Chair

reference:

[http://www.cincybridge.com/NLM/  
20111128\\_Learning\\_Points\\_Stayman\\_on\\_Steroids.pdf](http://www.cincybridge.com/NLM/20111128_Learning_Points_Stayman_on_Steroids.pdf)



# Stayman on Steroids

## Recommended NT System

- \* Stayman
- \* Garbage Stayman
- \* Crawling Stayman
- \* Smolen
- \* Major Suit Transfers
- \* Minor Suit Transfers
- \* Texas Transfers



# Stayman on Steroids

## Basics

### \* What is Stayman?

- \* An inquiry about 1NT opener's majors
- \* Responder asks by bidding 2♣

### \* Responder: ♠ QTxx ♥ KQx ♦ Jxxx ♣ xx

- \* After 1NT (15-17), respond 2♣
- \* Opener: 2♦ (no 4 card major), rebid 2NT
- \* Opener: 2♥ (has 4♥, maybe 4♠ too), rebid 2♠
- \* Opener: 2♠ (has 4♠), rebid 3♠



# Stayman on Steroids

## When You're Weak

- \* Pass, UNLESS:
- \* Garbage Stayman
  - \* Bid 2♣, plan to pass whatever partner rebids
  - \* You must be short in ♣
  - \* Example: ♠QTx ♥xxxx ♦Jxxxx ♣x
- \* Crawling Stayman
  - \* You must have both 4 card majors
  - \* Example: ♠QTxx ♥xxxx ♦Jx ♣xxx
  - \* Bid 2♣, pass any major rebid, rebid 2♥ over 2♦
  - \* Opener must pass or correct to his longest major



# Stayman on Steroids

When You're Invitational (the usual case)

- \* With a 4 card major, start with 2♣
- \* Without a 4 card major,  
AND INT-2NT is not natural (e.g. 4 suit xfer),  
start with 2♣
- \* If opener shows a fit, raise, Else bid 2NT
  - \* Responder: ♠Qxx ♥KQxx ♦JTxx ♣xx
  - \* Opener: 2♦, Responder: 2NT (may need an alert)
  - \* Opener: 2♥, Responder: 3♥
  - \* Opener: 2♠, Responder: 2NT



# Stayman on Steroids

When You're Strong (Game Force)

\* Balanced with no 4 card major, raise to 3NT

\* Example: ♠QTx ♥KQ ♦KTxx ♣xxxx  
INT-3NT

\* Always start with 2♣

when you have one or both 4 card majors

\* Example: ♠QTxx ♥KQxx ♦KTx ♣xx  
raise any major to 4, rebid 3NT over 2♦

\* Example: ♠QTxx ♥KQx ♦KTxx ♣xx  
raise 2♠ to 4♠, rebid 3NT over both 2♦ and 2♥

\* NOTE: INT-2♣-2♥/2♠-3NT promises 4♠/4♥



# Stayman on Steroids

When You're Strong (GF), Smolen

- \* Smolen is game forcing with 5-4 majors
- \* Start with 2♣
- \* Raise partner's major to game
- \* Over 2♦, jump to 3-level in 4 card major
- \* Opener chooses 5/3 major game or 3NT
  - \* Responder: ♠AKxxx ♥Kxxx ♦xx ♣xx
  - \* Opener: ♠QTx ♥Axx ♦Kx ♣AQTxx
  - \* INT-2♣-2♦-3♥!-4♠



# Stayman on Steroids

When You're Strong (GF), Difficult Hands

\* After Stayman, 3-level bid is Game Force

\* Responder A: ♠ AQJT ♥ Qxx ♦ QJxxx ♣ x

\* INT-2♣-2♥-3♦-3♥-3♠-3NT, 3♥ implies NT flaw!!

\* Responder B: ♠ x ♥ Qxx ♦ QJxxx ♣ AQJT

\* INT-2♣-2♥-3♦-3♥-3NT, 3NT implies ♠ flaw!!

\* Responder C: ♠ AQJT ♥ Qxx ♦ KQJxx ♣ x

\* INT-2♣-2♥-3♦-3♥-3♠-3NT-4♦-?? 4♠/4NT/6♦



# Stayman on Steroids

## Stayman Is Doubled

- \* Double of an artificial bid is lead directing
  - \* INT (P) 2♣ (X), shows ♣
- \* Who's stopping ♣?
  - \* INT (P) 2♣ (X) 2♦ (P) 3NT
- \* After the double, opener:
  - \* pass: no ♣ stop  
Responder: suit to play, smolen, redouble is stayman
  - \* ignore double: promises ♣ stop
  - \* redouble: good ♣s, Responder: pass, 2♦ is stayman



# Stayman on Steroids

## Review

- \* Stayman 2♣ is standard over INT opener
  - \* All other meanings must be alerted (even natural 2♣)
- \* Stayman 2♣ asks opener about majors
  - \* 2♦ = no, 2♥ & 2♠ = yes
- \* Stayman 2♣ can be:
  - \* weak: garbage or crawling, pass or bid 2♥
  - \* invitational: raise major, or bid 2♠ or 2NT
  - \* game force: bid 3NT, 4 Major, new suit at 3-level



# Stayman on Steroids

## Teaser

- \* What is the meaning of this sequence:
- \* INT-2♣-2♦-2♠ ??
- \* Weak, invitational, strong ??
- \* Forcing, non-forcing ??
- \* Natural, alertable ??
- \* Hint: The answer is related to transfer sequences, but it's not a transfer