

No Trump Hands

How to bid various range of Balanced hands?

Strong NT openings:

- 15-17 points 1NT
- 18-19 points Open 1X and then 2NT
- 20-22 points 2NT
- 23+ points 2C followed by 2NT

Simple Stayman

After 1NT (15-17) opening, 2C by responder is artificial, with at least one 4 card Major, usually 8+ points, Simple Stayman

2C Simple Stayman is asking opener:

Partner do you have a 4 card Major?

Opener responses to 2C Simple Stayman:

- 2H = 4 cards in hearts not denying spades
- 2S = 4 cards in spades denying hearts
- 2D = No 4 card major

NT Openings with 5 card Major

- 1NT (15-17hcp) with partnership agreement
- 2NT (20-22hcp) with balance or semi balance hands
- 2C followed by 2NT (23+ points) GF as above

If our 2NT or 2C hands have a 5 card major and we open 1 of a major, Partner with <6 points may pass and we miss on game.

We need a system to find a 5-3 or 5-4 as well as 4-4 fit in the Major

Puppet Stayman

When partner opens NT and we have enough points for game,

3C Puppet Stayman is used to identify a 5-3 or 4-4 fit in majors:

- and for strong hand to be Declarer

3C Puppet Stayman by responder is asking opener:

Partner do you have a 5 card or 4 card Major?

Situations to use Puppet Stayman:

- 1NT (15-17hcp) opening & responder have 10+hcp
- 2NT (20-22hcp) opening & responder have 5+hcp
- 2C followed by 2NT (23+ points) GF

A Tip: I recommend using 2C Simple Stayman after 1NT opening when responder has <10hcp & 3C Puppet Stayman with 10+ points.

Puppet Stayman

Responses to 3C Puppet Stayman:

- 3H/3S = 5 card suit
- 3NT = No 4 or 5 card major
- 3D = no 5 card but at least one 4 card major, responder:
 - Bids suit that he doesn't have
 - 4C both majors with better hearts (alternatively 10+hcp)
 - 4D both majors with better spades (alternatively <10hcp)
 - 3NT, responder has no 5 or 4 card major

2NT opening and responses

The 2NT opening is made of a balanced or semi balanced hand (not containing a singleton or void) with 20-22 points. It is not forcing.

a) 20hcp

♠ K Q 7
♥ A Q 4 2
♦ J 4
♣ A K J 7

b) 22hcp

♠ K Q 2
♥ A K J 2
♦ 9 5
♣ A K Q 8

c) 20hcp

♠ K Q 7
♥ A K J 7 3
♦ A 8 6
♣ K 6

d) 20hcp

♠ K 7 5
♥ A K J 7 3
♦ A K 9 4
♣ Q

e) 21hcp

♠ A J
♥ A T 9 8
♦ K Q J 5 2
♣ A Q

Partner opens 2NT. What do you respond with:

a)

♠ 9 8 4 2
♥ 7 6
♦ K 5 2
♣ 8 7 4 2

b)

♠ 9 8 7 4 2
♥ 7 4
♦ K 5 2
♣ 7 4 2

c)

♠ Q 6 4
♥ K 9 5
♦ 7 6 3
♣ J 9 7 4

d)

♠ Q 6 4 3
♥ K 9 5 2
♦ 7 6
♣ J 9 7

e)

♠ Q 8 7 4 2
♥ A J 5
♦ 7 3
♣ 8 7 4

f)

♠ Q 9 8 7 4 2
♥ A J 5
♦ 7 3
♣ 8 7

g)

♠ 7 4
♥ 9 8 7 4 2
♦ K 5 2
♣ 7 4 2

1NT opening and responses

Partner opens 1NT. What do you respond with:

a)

♠ 9 8 4 2
♥ 7 6
♦ K 5 2
♣ 8 7 4 2

b)

♠ 9 8 7 4 2
♥ 7 4
♦ K 5 2
♣ 7 4 2

c)

♠ J 6 4
♥ K 9 5
♦ 7
♣ J 9 7 6 4 3

d)

♠ Q 6 4 3
♥ K 9 5 2
♦ J 9 7 6
♣ 7

e)

♠ Q 8 7 4 2
♥ A J 5
♦ 7 3
♣ 8 7 4

f)

♠ Q 9 8 7 4 2
♥ A J 5
♦ 7 3
♣ 8 7

g)

♠ K Q 9 8
♥ A J 5
♦ J 3
♣ 8 7 4 2

h)

♠ K Q 9 8
♥ K J 5
♦ 7 3
♣ 8 7 4 2

i)

♠ K Q 9 8 7
♥ A J 5
♦ 7 3
♣ 8 7 4

Let's Play - Puppet Stayman

North

♠ K 8 6 3

♥ Q 8 7

♦ 9 4

♣ Q 6 3 2

Hand 1

Dealer South

West

♠ J T 9 4

♥ 3

♦ K J T 5 2

♣ 9 5 4

♠ Q 7 2

♥ J 6 4 2 East

♦ A 8 7

♣ J T 8

♠ A 5

♥ A K T 9 5

♦ Q 6 3

♣ A K 7

South

Puppet Stayman

North

♠ 5 2
♥ K T 8
♦ 9 5 4
♣ J T 9 8 3

Hand 2

Dealer West

West

♠ A K Q 4
♥ Q 3 2
♦ K Q J 2
♣ A 6

♠ J 9 6 3

♥ J 7 5

♦ A 7 6 3

♣ Q 7

East

♠ T 8 7
♥ A 9 6 4
♦ T 8
♣ K 5 4 2

South

Puppet Stayman

North

♠ K 9 8
♥ A 8 6
♦ A K Q 4 3
♣ K 6

Hand 3

Dealer North

West

♠ Q 2
♥ Q 7 4
♦ 6 5 2
♣ Q T 8 5 4

♠ 7 6 5 3
♥ K J 3
♦ T 9 8
♣ A J 7

East

♠ A J T 4
♥ T 9 5 2
♦ J 7
♣ 9 3 2

South

Puppet Stayman

North

♠ 8 7 3
♥ T 8 6
♦ Q J T 9 2
♣ A 7

Hand 4

Dealer East

West

♠ Q 9 5
♥ K J 9 4
♦ A 7
♣ J 6 3 2

♠ J T 6 4 2

♥ A Q 3

♦ K 5 3

♣ K Q

East

♠ A K
♥ 7 5 2
♦ 8 6 4
♣ T 9 8 5 4

South

Puppet Stayman

North

♠ A 8
♥ A Q 8 7
♦ Q 6 5
♣ Q J T 5

Hand 5

Dealer North

West

♠ K 5 3
♥ J 4 3
♦ K 9
♣ K 9 6 4 2

♠ T 9 6 2
♥ T 9 2
♦ A T 8 7
♣ 7 3

East

♠ Q J 7 4
♥ K 6 5
♦ J 4 3 2
♣ A 8

South

Puppet Stayman

North

♠ 5
♥ 9 5
♦ K Q J T 8 2
♣ T 6 5 4

Hand 6

Dealer West

West

♠ K J 6
♥ A K T 6
♦ 5 4
♣ K Q 8 3

♠ T 9 8 3
♥ J 7 2
♦ A 9 7 6
♣ A J

East

♠ A Q 7 4 2
♥ Q 8 4 3
♦ 3
♣ 9 7 2

South

Puppet Stayman

North

♠ K 6 2
♥ K Q 4
♦ 8 6 2
♣ J 5 3 2

Hand 7

Dealer South

West

♠ A T 7 5 3
♥ A T 9 2
♦ 9 5 4
♣ 9

East

♠ J 8
♥ J 8 6
♦ J T 7 3
♣ K Q 8 7

♠ Q 9 4
♥ 7 5 3
♦ A K Q
♣ A T 6 4
South

Puppet Stayman

North

♠ K T 5 4 2

♥ T 7

♦ J 5 4 3

♣ Q J

Hand 8

Dealer West

West

♠ A J 9 7

♥ Q 3

♦ A Q 6

♣ A T 8 4

♠ Q 3

♥ A K 9 5

♦ K T 9 8 7

♣ 9 7

East

♠ 8 6

♥ J 8 6 4 2

♦ 2

♣ K 6 5 3 2

South