**Stayman Without Eight Points? Never Say Never**

**When partner opens 1NT and you are *short in clubs*, bid Stayman regardless of your point count — even with fewer than 8 HCP.**

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| **http://www.bridgehands.com/Symbols/s.gif**T875  **http://www.bridgehands.com/Symbols/h.gif**9754  **http://www.bridgehands.com/Symbols/d.gif**T9832  **http://www.bridgehands.com/Symbols/c.gif**— | With this hand, it will be no fun watching partner suffer as he goes down in 1NT.  Remember: The 1NT opener has limited options after Stayman. A 2**http://www.bridgehands.com/Symbols/h.gif** or 2**http://www.bridgehands.com/Symbols/s.gif** bid shows four hearts or four spades. A 2**http://www.bridgehands.com/Symbols/d.gif** bid denies a four-card major. Opener should never answer by bidding 2NT. Therefore, responder can bid Stayman without strength if he is prepared to pass opener's rebid. Respond 2**http://www.bridgehands.com/Symbols/c.gif** then pass at your next turn. |

I am certainly not guaranteeing that you will take eight tricks with this garbage — that would be absurd. However, I will guarantee that you will take more tricks in a suit contract than you would in notrump.

Please keep in mind: **Stayman is an asking bid, not a telling bid.**The only time responder guarantees eight points is when he follows Stayman with a second bid.

When you bid Stayman with a weak hand that is short in clubs you are using garbage (weak) Stayman.

1.    You respond 2**http://www.bridgehands.com/Symbols/c.gif**;

2.    Opener either bids his major or bids 2**http://www.bridgehands.com/Symbols/d.gif**;

3.    You pass, confident that you are in your best contract;

4.    You relax as dummy and watch partner ruff his club losers.