

Showing Majors over 1NT

Stayman and Jacoby

Stayman

- A bid of 2♣ after Partner opens the bidding 1NT is called Stayman
- The purpose of Stayman is to find a 4-4 major suit fit after Partner opens the bidding 1NT (or 2NT or 3NT)
- To bid Stayman you MUST have a FOUR card major. (NOT a FIVE card major, nor a SIX card major. You MUST have at least ONE major suit holding with EXACTLY FOUR cards in it.)
- If you might have to bid again after any of Partner's responses, you show at least a good 8+ HCP

Responding to Stayman

- A 2♦ response says “I have no four card major”
- A 2♥ response says “I have four ♥” and does NOT deny having four ♠
- A 2♠ response says “I have four ♠ but I do NOT have four ♥”

These are the ONLY responses allowed after a Stayman inquiry

♠ AQ65	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♥ KJ54	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
♦ 32	???			
♣ J85				






Here is a perfect hand for Stayman. Partner has opened 1NT and you could easily have a 4-4 major suit fit. Ask by bidding Stayman.

If Partner shows a four card major, bid game in that major. If Partner reponds 2♦ then bid 3NT.

	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♠ J865	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
♥ 8542	???			
♦ 87632				
♣				

Here is another perfect hand for Stayman.

Partner has opened 1NT and your hand would be MUCH better off playing in a suit contract. Bid 2♣ and PASS whatever Partner responds.

 J865	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
 8542	1NT	Pass	2 	Pass
 87632	???			
				

You do NOT need 8+ HCP to bid Stayman if you intend to “PASS” whatever response Partner gives you.

	♠ J865	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♥	8542	1NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
♦		???			
♣	87632				

Here is the EXACT hand but I switched the minors.
 Now if Partner opens 1NT you must “PASS”. If Partner
 responds 2♦ you cannot leave them there – they
 might only have two ♦!

Jacoby Transfer

- IF you agree to play them, a bid of either 2♦ or 2♥ after Partner opens the bidding 1NT is called a Jacoby Transfer
- The main purpose of a Jacoby Transfer is to get the “strong” hand to become Declarer. That way the opening lead goes into the strong hand.
- Transfers can also be used to show distributional hands with two five card suits.
- Transfers **MUST** be alerted in any ACBL game. Online you self alert. So when making the transfer bid type in the suit you **HAVE** in the “Explain” section.

Responding to a Jacoby Transfer

The opening 1NT bidder has NO CHOICE when responding to a transfer. They MUST do as requested.

So if Responder bids 2♦ (as a transfer to ♥) you MUST bid 2♥

If Responder bids 2♥ (as a transfer to ♠) you MUST bid 2♠

Super Accepts

If you like you can play something called a “Super Accept”

So if Responder bids 2♦ (as a transfer to ♥) you CAN bid 3♥

If Responder bids 2♥ (as a transfer to ♠) you CAN bid 3♠

If you agree to play Super Accepts I would recommend having at LEAST FOUR in the major! That way you have the LAW on your side. You can also agree that shows a MAXIMUM – so 17 HCP.

Remember Responder can have ZERO points!

♠ AQ652	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♥ K4	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
♦ Q32	2♠	Pass	3NT	Pass
♣ J85	???			

Here is a perfect hand for a Jacoby Transfer. Start by transferring to your five card major and then bid 3NT. Partner knows you have the values for game (since you bid 3NT) and also knows you have a five card major (since you made a transfer bid). Let OPENER decide where to play.

	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♠ KQ652	1NT	Pass	2♥	Pass
♥ 4	2♠	Pass	Pass	Pass
♦ 832				
♣ J852				

Here is another perfect hand for a Jacoby Transfer. Start by transferring to your five card major and then just “Pass”. You don’t have the values for game and weak hands tend to take more tricks if they can trump so even if you do not have a ♠ fit this hand would generally be more valuable playing in ♠ rather than 1NT.

Combining BOTH options!

- What do you do if you have BOTH a FOUR card major (so you wish to bid Stayman) but also a FIVE or SIX card major (so you wish to make a Jacoby Transfer)?
- With the VALUES for Stayman (8+HCP) bid Stayman
- Less than 8 HCP? Transfer to the major and “PASS”

♠ KJT62	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♥ K742	1NT	Pass	???	
♦ K92				
♣ 9				

Here was a hand from Tuesday. If you start by transferring to your ♠ suit you will NEVER be able to find out if you have a 4-4 ♥ fit.

♠ KJT62	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♥ K742	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
♦ K92	2♥	Pass	4♥	
♣ 9				

Start by asking about the ♥ fit by bidding Stayman.
 If Partner responds 2♥ you can bid game.

	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♠ KJT62	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
♥ K742	2♠	Pass	4♠	
♦ K92				
♣ 9				

If Partner responds 2♠ you can bid game.

	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♠ KJT62	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
♥ K742	2♦	Pass	???	
♦ K92				
♣ 9				

If Partner responds 2♦ you do NOT have a ♥ fit but you are still unsure whether or not you have a ♠ fit. Partner could have three ♠.

♠ KJT62	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♥ K742	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
♦ K92	2♦	Pass	3♠	
♣ 9				

JUMP in the bidding to FORCE Partner to bid again.

When you show your suit Partner should know you have a FIVE card suit.

♠ KJT62	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♥ K742	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
♦ K92	2♦	Pass	3♠	
♣ 9				

You CAN'T have only four ♠ . Partner has denied having four ♠ .

You also CAN'T have six. You could have bid 4♠ since you KNOW with six cards you have a fit.

	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♠ KJT62	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
♥ K742	2♦	Pass	3♠	Pass
♦ K92	3NT or 4♠			
♣ 9				

Opener will bid 3NT if they only have two ♠

But if they have three ♠ they will bid 4♠

	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♠ KT642	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
♥ K742	2♦	Pass	2♠	
♦ K92				
♣ 9				

Fewer values?

With only an invitational hand just bid your five card major at the 2 level. Partner will know you have at least 8 HCP (you need that to bid Stayman) but less than 10 (since you would have jumped with 10 or more).

Any questions?

Let's practice!

Question 1:

♠ K62

♥ K8742

♦ K92

♣ 93

Partner

1NT

RHO

Pass

You!

???

LHO

What is your call?

Answer 1:

	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♠ K62				
♥ K8742	1NT	Pass	2♦	
♦ K92				
♣ 93				

Transfer Partner to your five card major – remember to alert!

Question 2:

	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♠ K62	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
♥ K8742	2♥	Pass	???	
♦ K92				
♣ 93				

Partner dutifully accepts the transfer. What is your call?

Answer 2:

	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♠ K62	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
♥ K8742	2♥	Pass	2NT	
♦ K92				
♣ 93				

2NT shows an invitational hand – so a good 8 or 9 HCP.

The Jacoby Transfer showed your five card suit.

Question 3:

	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♠ K62	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
♥ K8742	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
♦ K92	3♥	Pass	???	
♣ 93				

Partner bids 3♥. What is your call?

Answer 3:

	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♠ K62	1NT	Pass	2♦	Pass
♥ K8742	2♥	Pass	2NT	Pass
♦ K92	3♥	Pass	PASS	
♣ 93				

Partner is saying they can support your major but they do NOT want to accept your game invite. Partner could have bid 4♥. But they DIDN'T.

Question 4:

♠ K862

♥ KQ8742

♦ K2

♣ 3

Partner

1NT

RHO

Pass






You!

???

LHO







What is your call?

Answer 4:

 K862	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
 KQ8742	1NT	Pass	2 	
 K2				
 3				

First find out if you have a four-four  fit.

Question 5:

 K862	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
 KQ8742	1NT	Pass	2 	Pass
 K2	2 	Pass	???	
 3				

Partner denies having a four card major. Your call.

Answer 5:

	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♠ K862	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
♥ KQ8742	2♦	Pass	4♥	
♦ K2				
♣ 3				

You have a ♥ fit. You have the values for game. Bid game.

Question 6:

♠ AJ62
♥ KQ82
♦ K92
♣ 83

Partner
2NT

RHO
Pass

You!
???

LHO

Your bid.

Answer 6:

♠ AJ62

♥ KQ82

♦ K92

♣ 83

Partner

2NT

RHO

Pass

You!

3♣

LHO

You can also bid Stayman after an opening 2NT or 3NT bid.

Question 7:

	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♠ AJ62	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
♥ KQ82	3♠	Pass	???	
♦ K92				
♣ 83				

Partner says they do NOT have four ♥ but they do have four ♠. Your call.

Answer 7:

	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♠ AJ62	2NT	Pass	3♣	Pass
♥ KQ82	3♠	Pass	6♠	
♦ K92				
♣ 83				

You have the values for a small slam and not a large slam.
Don't waste anyone's time bidding anything other than 6♠.

Question 8:

♠ QJ862

♥ AQ62

♦ 2

♣ 753

Partner

RHO

You!

LHO

1NT

Pass

???

Your bid.

Answer 8:

♠ QJ862

♥ AQ62

♦ 2

♣ 753

Partner

1NT

RHO

Pass

You!

2♣

LHO

Ask about a four card ♥ suit.

Question 9:

♠ QJ862

♥ AQ62

♦ 2

♣ 753

Partner

1NT

2♦

RHO

Pass

Pass

You!

2♣

???

LHO

Pass

Partner denies having a four card major. Your call.

Answer 9:

	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♠ QJ862	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
♥ AQ62	2♦	Pass	2♠	
♦ 2				
♣ 753				

Show your fifth ♠ by bidding 2♠. This should show an INVITATIONAL hand with five four in the majors.

Question 10:

♠ QJ862

♥ AQ62

♦ 2

♣ 753

Partner

1NT

2♦

2NT

RHO

Pass

Pass

You!

2♣

2♠

LHO

Pass

Pass

Partner responds 2NT. Your call.

Answer 10:

	Partner	RHO	You!	LHO
♠ QJ862	1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
♥ AQ62	2♦	Pass	2♠	Pass
♦ 2	2NT	Pass	Pass	Pass
♣ 753				

Pass. Partner does not have a fit for either major and they do NOT want to accept your invite. You have arrived.

How'd you do?

10/10 – Excellent bidding skills!

8 – 9 – Good Job!

6 – 7 – Not so bad – these are tricky!

<5 – Better luck next time.

GOOD LUCK TONIGHT!!!

