

# Stayman with weak hands.

So far we have only considered to use the Stayman convention when we hold strong hands usually with 11 or more points. But it is possible to use this convention when holding weak and unbalanced hands. The hand types fall into four main categories listed below.

**1) A weak hand with long clubs or diamonds.**

**2) A weak hand with a long minor and a four card major**

**3) A weak hand with both majors provided one has at least five cards.**

**4) A weak hand with diamond length and both majors.**

*For example your partner opens one no-trump and you hold:*

♠7                      Respond 2C, intending to rebid 3C whatever partner replies. Effectively making a weak take-out in clubs.  
♥Q53  
♦32  
♣KJ106432

♠Q1065              Respond 2C, intending to pass 2D or 2S and rebid 3D if partner replies 2H. Again effectively making a weak take-out in a minor.  
♥5  
♦AJ7643  
♣85

♠QJ1075              Respond 2C, with the intention of passing 2H or 2S and rebidding 2S if partner replies 2D. This time you have made a weak take out in spades but given yourself the opportunity to find the best major suit fit.  
♥A983  
♦J87  
♣3

♠J876                Respond 2C, with the intention of passing any response your partner makes. You have a five card diamond suit for partner if he bids the suit.  
♥K754  
♦QJ865  
♣

**NOTE: The overriding rule is that if the person who has initiated the Stayman convention bids a new suit he is showing a weak hand with length in that suit and the 1NT opener is expected to pass.**