

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.

♠ T875	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♥ or 2♠ bid shows four hearts or four spades. A 2♦ 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♣ then pass at your next turn.
♥ 9754	
♦ T9832	
♣ —	

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♣;
2. Opener either bids his major or bids 2♦;
3. You pass, confident that you are in your best contract;
4. You relax as dummy and watch partner ruff his club losers.