

## A and A+ Stayman

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### Introduction

A Stayman is used over a 2NT opening to find if opener has a four or five card major. It has elements of Puppet Stayman and Romex Stayman. Key is that 2NT-3♣-3♦ shows four spades.

In A+ Stayman, which has elements of Advanced Muppet Stayman, responder can find a spade fit with 5-4 or 5-3 in the majors. A+ Stayman often hides opener's hand type better than Puppet/Muppet, when opener plays three notrump with no four card major.

### A Stayman

After 2NT-3♣ (A Stayman), opener rebids:

- 3♦ shows exactly four spades, can have four hearts. Now:
  - 3♥ is a transfer to spades
  - 3♠ shows four hearts
  - 3NT is to play
  - 4 of a minor natural and forcing
- 3♥ shows four or five hearts, denies four spades. Now:
  - 3♠ asks if five hearts, 3NT=no (and now 4 of a minor is natural, 4♥ is non-forcing slam try)
  - 3NT and 4♥ is to play, 4 of a minor natural and forcing
- 3♠ shows five spades. Now 3NT and 4♠ is to play, 4 of a minor natural and forcing, and 4♥ is an artificial slam try in spades
- 3NT denies a four or five card major. Now 4 of a minor is natural and forcing, 4 of a major to play

See below for A+ Stayman

## A+ Stayman

In this scheme, responder bids Stayman with 5-4 or 5-3 in the majors, but if 4-5 in the majors, transfers to hearts and then bids spades.

After 2NT-3♣ (A+ Stayman), opener rebids:

- 3♦ either has exactly four spades, can have four hearts, or no four card major. Now:
  - 3♥ is a transfer to spades. Over this:
    - 3♣ shows that opener prefers to play in spades instead of notrump if responder has five spades
    - 3NT shows no interest in spades
    - 4 of a minor shows four spades, good maximum, location of some values, now 4♥ is a transfer to spades
    - 4♠ shows four spades, not a good maximum
    - After 3♣ or 3NT, four level suit bids are natural, forcing if a minor
  - 3♠ shows four hearts
  - 3NT is to play
  - 4 of a minor natural and forcing, or best 4♣ is natural and forcing, 4♦ shows six or longer hearts and four spades, and 4♠ shows diamonds
  - 4♥ is a transfer to spades with six or longer spades and no slam interest
- 3♥ shows exactly four hearts, and denies four spades. Now:
  - 3♣ asks opener to bid 3NT, and after that 4 of a minor is natural, 4♥ is non-forcing slam try with a spade cuebid
  - 3NT shows five spades, three hearts, not forcing
  - 4 of a minor is a cuebid and slam try in hearts
  - 4♥ is to play
- 3♠ shows five spades. Now 3NT and 4♠ is to play, 4 of a minor natural and forcing, and 4♥ is an artificial slam try in spades
- 3NT shows five hearts. Now 4♣ is natural and forcing, 4♦ is a transfer to hearts, 4♥ is a non-forcing slam try in hearts, and 4♠ shows diamonds, forcing

In conjunction with A+ Stayman, one can play the following scheme with 5 hearts and 3-4 spades:

- 3♦ transfer followed by 3♠ is a transfer to 3NT, with five hearts and fewer than three spades
- 3♦ transfer followed by 3NT shows five hearts and four spades, not forcing
- 2NT-3♣ asks opener to bid 3NT, to play, or will show a specific hand type by bidding again (as defined by the partnership, for example 4♣ could show both minors)
- 2NT-3NT shows five hearts, three spades, not forcing. If opener forgets could still be the best spot.