

EGCC More on Stayman and Transfers

Weak with Both Majors

Suppose partner opens 1NT and you have:

- ♠ QT32
- ♥ Q9534
- ♦ 72
- ♣ Q3

Your hand is weak and 1NT is unlikely to play well. You could just bid 2♦ (transfer to hearts) and pass partner's 2♥ bid, but what if partner has 4 Spades?

Bid 2♣ Stayman. If partner bids either major then you have at least an 8 card fit. If he bids 2♦, just bid 2♥ as a weak takeout and he will pass. This way you have a chance of finding a 4-4 spade fit if it is there.

If the spade and heart suits were swapped around, you would do the same thing (but bidding 2♠ if partner bids 2♦).

You CANNOT take this approach if you have (say)

- ♠ QT32
- ♥ Q953
- ♦ 724
- ♣ Q3

As you have no sensible bid if partner responds 2♦.

But if you had (as an extreme example):

- ♠ 5432
- ♥ 5432
- ♦ 65432
- ♣ -

Bid 2♣ Stayman and pass whatever partner bids.

Weak with a Major and a Minor

Similarly if you had a hand like this:

- ♠ QT32
- ♥ 3
- ♦ 72
- ♣ QJ7532

Bid 2♣ Stayman. If partner bids spades, then pass. If not, bid 3C and you will be playing in at least a 6-2 fit (albeit at the 3 level).

Swap the clubs and diamonds and it becomes even better:

- ♠ QT32
- ♥ 3
- ♦ QJ7532
- ♣ 72

Bid 2♣ Stayman. If partner bids spades OR diamonds, just pass. If he bids 2♥, bid 3♦.

Strong with 2 five card majors

With:

- ♠ KQT32
- ♥ AKT97
- ♦ Q2
- ♣ 5

Bid 2♣ (Stayman). If partner bids a major, raise to 4. If he bids 2♦, bid 3♦. This means "Show me your better major" (he must have a three card one).

Strong with 5-4 in the majors

5-4 in Hearts and Spades

With **13+** points and 5-4 in hearts and spades:

- ♠ AKT9
- ♥ KQT32
- ♦ Q23
- ♣ 5

Bid 2♦ (transfer to hearts) and after partners' 2♥, bid 3♠, showing 5 hearts and 4 spades and enough points for game. Partner will bid 4♠, 4♥ or 3NT according to his shape.

With **11-12** points and a 5-4 in hearts and spades:

- ♠ AKT9
- ♥ KT932
- ♦ Q23
- ♣ 5

Bid 2♦ (transfer to hearts) and after partners' 2♥, bid 2♠, showing 5 hearts and 4 spades and 11-12 points. Partner will bid 3♠, 4♠, 3♥, 4♥, 3NT or Pass according to his shape and point count.

5-4 in Spades and Hearts

With **13+** points and a 5-4 in spades and hearts:

- ♠ KQT32
- ♥ AKT9
- ♦ Q23
- ♣ 5

Bid 2♥ (transfer to spades) and after partners' 2♠, bid 3♥, showing 5 spades and 4 hearts and enough points for game. Partner will bid 4♠, 4♥ or 3NT according to his shape. You **must** have 13+ points for this because you are committing your side to game, as after the 3♥ bid partner will have to bid 3NT if they have neither 3 spades nor 4 hearts.

With **11-12** points and a 5-4 in spades and hearts:

♠ KT932
♥ AKT9
♦ Q23
♣ 5

You **cannot** fully show your shape here, as you risk ending up in 3NT without enough points. You have to decide whether to show the 5 card spade suit (bid 2H, transferring to spades and rebid 2NT), or to bid Stayman and hope for a 4-4 (or 5-4) fit.

Super Acceptance

This is where opener (who bid 1NT) has a hand which is a really good fit for partner's transfer. With 14 points and 4 cards in responder's suit, bid 3 instead of 2.

The logic here is that with a 9+ card fit, and responder likely to be unbalanced, game may be possible with fewer points than normal. Even if it isn't, the increase of one level is unlikely to be disastrous.

Example: You open 1NT with:

♠ AKT9
♥ KQT9
♦ Q23
♣ 52

Partner bids 2♦ (transfer to hearts). Your hand is as good as it can be for opening 1NT: maximum points, 9+ card fit, points in the long suits. Bid 3♥ and partner will either pass or raise to 4♥.

Can I use Stayman?

To use Stayman you need only two things:

1. The prospect of a better contract, and no risk or a worse one.
2. A rebid after partner bids any of the 3 possible responses

You do not need a set number of points or specific shape as long as you can satisfy these two conditions