

Garbage Stayman Bridge Convention - Bidding and Responses

bridgebum.com/garbage_stayman.php

Garbage Stayman is a rare but fun little variation of the Stayman convention. After a 1NT opening by partner, a 2♣ response shows a weak 3-suited hand that's short in clubs. Playing a strong 15-17 1NT, Garbage Stayman shows 0-7 points. The ideal distribution is 4-4-4-1 or 4-4-5-0, although 3-4-5-1 or 4-3-5-1 is also okay. Note that a weak hand containing a 5-card major (e.g. 5-4-4-0 shape) should simply use a Jacoby Transfer instead.

Some examples of hands suitable for a Garbage Stayman response:

♠ T987	♠ Q653	♠ J872
♥ A984	♥ Q432	♥ JT4
♦ 87532	♦ T975	♦ 86543
♣ —	♣ J	♣ 9

With each of these hands, responder bids 2♣ like regular Stayman. However, responder intends to **pass** at his next turn. The idea is that the partnership will either locate an 8-card major suit fit, or a probable 8-card diamond fit if opener denies a 4-card major.

Opener's Rebids

Opener's rebids are the same as in regular Stayman:

Opener's Rebid	Meaning
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2♦ Denies a 4-card major

2♥ Shows 4 (or rarely 5) hearts, and may have 4 spades

2♠ Shows 4 (or rarely 5) spades, and shows fewer than 4 hearts

Examples

West	East
♠ T3	♠ 8652
♥ AQ82	♥ KT93
♦ KJ7	♦ 8654

	<p>♣ KQT5</p>		<p>♣ 2</p>
West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	All Pass		

This is the textbook hand that Garbage Stayman attempts to solve. You can cheaply find your 4-4 major suit fit rather than languish in 1NT.

West	East		
♠ KT95	♠ J87		
♥ AK3	♥ Q642		
♦ A5	♦ K9873		
♣ QJT9	♣ 2		
West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♣	All Pass		

On the other hand, you may also create some sticky situations with imperfect shape. Here 1NT was an acceptable contract but 2 ♣ will require some maneuvering.

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