

Board 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 5 2
♥ 6 5 4 2
♦ A J 7 6
♣ 8 6

♠ A K

♥ Q J 9

♦ K Q 8 3

♣ A J T 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ T 9 4

♥ A 8

♦ T 9 5

♣ K 9 4 3 2

♠ Q J 7 6 3
♥ K T 7 3
♦ 4 2
♣ Q 5

West	North	East	South
	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♠
Pass	3NT	All Pass	

3 NT by North

Baker Stayman 19

With a balanced 20 points you open 2NT and partner responds 3♣. What do you bid?

Stayman applies after a 2NT opening, just one level higher. With no 4-card Major you bid 3♦. Partner next bids 3♠. What do you bid?

Partner is showing 5 ♠s and 4 ♥s. In neither case would you have the 8-card fit you need. So you bid 3NT.

Board 2

East Deals

N-S Vul

♠ Q 9 6 3
♥ K 5
♦ Q 8 7 5
♣ 7 4 2

♠ A 8 4

♥ T 8 7 3

♦ 6 4 2

♣ A 8 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ K J T 5
♥ A Q J 9
♦ A J 9
♣ K Q

♠ 7 2
♥ 6 4 2
♦ K T 3
♣ J T 9 6 5

West	North	East	South
		2NT	Pass
3♣	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	4♠	All Pass

4 ♠ by East

Baker Stayman 20

You open 2NT and partner responds 3♣. What do you bid?

With 4 cards in each Major suit you bid 3♥. Partner puts you in 3NT. What do you do? Pass or bid?

You certainly do not pass. Partner's Stayman bid tells you he has a 4-card Major suit. His 3NT bid tells you the suit was not ♥s. Elementary, Watson, the suit must be ♠s. So you convert the 3NT bid to 4♠.

If you want to make yourself happy you use Stayman, just imagine playing 3NT after a ♣ lead!

Board 3

South Deals

E-W Vul

♠ 9 6
♥ 7 2
♦ 9 7 6 5 3 2
♣ A 5 3

♠ K Q 4 2
♥ A Q T 9 4 3
♦ -
♣ 8 7 4

	N	E
W		S
	8 6 5	
	Q J T 4	
	Q T 2	

♠ A J 8 5
♥ K J
♦ A K 8
♣ K J 9 6

West	North	East	South
Pass	3♣	Pass	2NT
Pass	6♠	All Pass	3♠

6 ♠ by North

Baker Stayman 21

South opens 2NT. What do you respond?

Wow! Start thinking slam, but first things first. Find the suit by starting with Stayman. You bid 3♣ and partner replies 3♠. What do you say next?

Your hand revalues to 16 points now that you know there's a ♠ fit. So certainly you want to be in slam as long as there are not two quick ♣ losers. At this point you might try something like a 4♦ cue bid, hoping partner will read that as a slam try in ♠s, but denying the ♣ control. But that seems awfully easy to be misunderstood. We suggest an immediate 6♠.

Good thing it's being played by South, right?

Board 4

West Deals

Both Vul

♠ A 8 3

♥ A K 6 4

♦ Q 5 2

♣ Q 8 7

♠ K 9 6

♥ 5 2

♦ 9

♣ A K T 9 4 3 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ Q 7 4 2

♥ T 9 8 3

♦ J 8 7 6 3

♣ -

♠ J T 5

♥ Q J 7

♦ A K T 4

♣ J 6 5

Baker Stayman 22

West opens 1NT. What do you respond?

Your first thought should be that with only 4 points you will pass. But on second thought, what would partner respond if you bid a Stayman 2♣? So you give it a shot and partner says 2♥. What next?

What's next is your PASS. And if he had bid 2♠ you also would have passed. And if he had bid 2♦ you also would have passed. You figured that with this hand any response partner could make would be a better place than 1NT.

West	North	East	South
1NT	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	All Pass		

2♥ by West

Board 5

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 6
♥ Q J 8 3 2
♦ K 6 5 3
♣ J 9 3

♠ A K 7 3

♥ A 9 5

♦ 9 8 2

♣ A Q 2

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ T 9 4 2
♥ T 7
♦ A T 4
♣ 7 6 5 4

♠ Q J 8 5
♥ K 6 4
♦ Q J 7
♣ K T 8

West North East South

1NT Pass 3NT

All Pass

3NT by South

Baker Stayman 23

North opens 1NT. What do you respond?

With 12 points and a 4-card ♠ suit this fits the model for Stayman.

But thinking a little further, with this 4-3-3-3 distribution you have no ruffing values whatsoever. So even if partner also has 4 ♠s there might not be an advantage in playing the suit contract. So for this specific distribution you ignore your 4-card Major and just bid 3NT.

Board 6

North Deals
E-W Vul

♠ A Q T 6
♥ Q 7
♦ T 9 5
♣ K 9 7 4

♠ K J 7 5 4 2

♥ A T 2
♦ 4 3

♣ Q J

N
W E
S

♠ 9 8
♥ K J 4
♦ A Q J 7
♣ A T 8 5

♠ 3

♥ 9 8 6 5 3
♦ K 8 6 2
♣ 6 3 2

West	North	East	South
2♣	Pass	1NT	Pass
3NT	2♠	Pass	Pass
	All Pass		

3NT by West

Baker Stayman 24

After you open 1NT partner bids 2♣, then North says 2♠. What do you say next?

Basically you said your say when you opened 1NT. You don't have a 4-card Major and you have a minimum hand. The best way to convey this information to partner is to pass. At which point partner jumps to 3NT. What do you say?

Pass, then "Thank you partner" when dummy comes down. The thing to remember is that partner is in charge. You describe your hand as well as you can and then sit back and let him make the decisions. Perhaps you would have doubled if you held his hand but he didn't.