

# “Stayman” and “Jacoby Transfer” Conventions

## THE “STAYMAN” CONVENTION

**Definition:** - An artificial bid of “2C” over Partner's opening bid of 1-NT, or alternatively, “3C” over Partner’s opening bid of 2-NT, are both asking the No-Trump Opener to bid a 4-card Major suit (Hearts or Spades), “*Up-the-Ladder*,” if one is present.

1. The “Stayman” Convention is *only used* when Responder holds a 4-Card Major suit and is looking for a matching 4-Card Major suit, potentially held by the Opener.
2. If a “Golden Fit” or longer is present and Opener and Responder, together, have game-values, or better, the hand, oft times, plays better in a final contract of 4 of the mutually-held Major suit, with the following two exceptions: (a) if the combined hands hold 29-32 HCP's, and/or (b) if the Responder holds a 4-3-3-3 distribution. In the latter two instances, the hand plays better in a final contract of 3-NT, even if an 8-Card Major suit fit were to be found.
3. The artificial bids of “2C” over a 1-NT opening bid, or of “3C” over a 2-NT opening bid, both initiating the Stayman Convention, do *not* need to be “alerted” despite the artificial nature of Responder’s “Club” call. This is due to the fact that this Convention is universally accepted as the norm, and is played by most Partnerships.
4. The opening Bidder, having opened 1-NT, responds “2D” over “2C” (or “3D” over “3C,” having opened 2-NT), in order to signify “NO 4-CARD MAJOR,” or alternatively 2H or 2S (3H or 3S), “Up the Ladder,” in order to signify a 4-Card, Heart or Spade holding, respectively, if one is present in Opener’s hand.

<u>OPENER</u>	<u>RESPONDER</u>	<u>MEANING OF RESPONDER’S LAST BID</u>
1-NT “2D”/2H/2S	“2C” 2-NT	This sequence shows invitational values, 9-10 HCP’s in <b>Standard American</b> (12-13 HCP’s in <b>ACOL</b> ), with an unmatched, 4-card, Major suit holding. With minimum values, Opener can then either correct to the 3-level in the alternate Major, if 4-cards are held in the alternate Major suit, or simply “Pass,” if not. Alternatively, Opener can proceed to game if holding a maximum of 17 HCP’s in <b>Standard American (S.A.)</b> , (14 HCP’s in <b>ACOL</b> ), in either the alternate Major suit or in No-Trump.

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1-NT 2H/2S	“2C” 3H/3S	This sequence shows invitational support for Opener’s disclosed 4-card Major suit. It invites Opener to game if Opener holds a maximum holding of 17 HCP’s in <b>Standard American (S.A.)</b> , (14 HCP’s in <b>ACOL</b> ). Alternatively, Opener may simply “Pass” with a minimum of 15-16 HCP’s in <b>Standard American</b> , (12-13 HCP’s in <b>ACOL</b> )
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1-NT 2H/2S	“2C” 4H/4S	A sign-off acceptance of Opener’s Major suit, having found the sought-after Major suit “Golden Fit,” game-values, but with no interest in Slam; i.e., holding 11 + HCP’s in <b>Standard American (S.A.)</b> , (14 + HCP’s in <b>ACOL</b> ).
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1-NT “2D”/2H/2S	“2C” 3-NT	A sign-off by Responder, unable to find a 4-4 fit in his/her sought-after Major suit. Opener can correct to 4 in the alternate Major suit, if holding 4-cards in the alternate Major suit, present but not yet shown, else “Pass.”
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1-NT “2D”/2H/2S	“2C” “4C”	The “Gerber” Convention, asking for Opener’s number of Aces, when seeking the feasibility of a perceived, Slam-level contract in the Major suit originally sought by the Responder, or in No-Trump.
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