

## One No Trump Opening and Responses Part 1

- I. Opening One No Trump Requirements
  - A. 15-17 points and a balanced hand
  - B. The author of your textbook recommends that you do not open 1 nt with a five card major.
- II. Responding to one no trump with a balanced hand.
  - A. 0-7 pass
  - B. 8-9 bid 2 nt
  - C. 10-15
- III. The Stayman Convention
  - A.** If the opening bid is one notrump, responder can use transfers. This allows your partnership to locate a 5-3 or 6-2 major-suit trump fit. But what about a 4-4 trump fit? Remember that your primary bidding goal is to locate an eight-card major suit fit, no matter how those cards are divided. This is the main purpose of the Stayman convention — to find a 4-4 major-suit trump fit after a notrump opening bid.

### **B. Basic Use**

After a one-notrump opening bid, a response of two clubs requires 8 or more HCP. Further, responder must not have a 4-3-3-3 hand pattern — do not look for a suit contract when you cannot ruff anything. The two-club response is an artificial bid — it does not promise a club suit — and it is forcing. Responder typically has a four-card major suit and he wants to find out if opener has four cards to match.

- C.** Opener must bid a four-card major suit if he has one. With no four-card major suit, opener must bid two diamonds (also an artificial bid). Below is a summary of opener's rebids after Stayman:

<b><u>Opener has</u></b>	<b><u>Rebid</u></b>
+ card major	of the major
No 4+ card major	2 diamonds

- D.** If opener happens to have both four-card majors, he should bid one of them. It makes little difference, but the recommended procedure is to bid hearts then, if responder does not raise hearts, opener should bid spades at his next turn.
- E.** Rebids by Responder  
After the Stayman two-club response, it is responder's duty to guide the bidding into the proper contract. If opener showed a major suit and responder has four or more cards in that suit, responder should raise to the three level with 8-9 points to invite game; or raise to the four level with 10-14 points. Remember to count your distributional points as the dummy.
- F.** If a major-suit trump fit has not been found, responder usually should rebid two notrump with 8-9 points to invite game; or three notrump with 10-14 points. Here is a summary of the common rebids after using Stayman:

<u>Points</u>	<u>Major Fit Found?</u>	<u>Rebid</u>
8-9	No	2 NT
	Yes	3 hearts or 3 spades
10-14	No	3 NT
10-15	Yes	4 hearts or 4spades