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Conventions 105, with Pamela Granovetter

SAMPLE
First 5 pages of 9 pages

Lesson One

Hi. Welcome to our first class on bridge Conventions. In each lecture this semester, we'll learn a new convention for bidding. Hope you enjoy and learn a lot. You can reach me for any questions at:

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The Stayman Convention

This convention was invented by George Rapee and popularized by Sam Stayman. It is a bid that asks a question.

Suppose your partner opens the bidding with one notrump. You would like to know if your partner has a four-card major, because your hand is:

```
A K 8 3
J 10 5 4
Q 3
10 6 4
```

Opposite your partner's one notrump opening bid, you have enough points to bid a game. However, you don't know if the game should be three notrump, or four-of-a-major. So you "ask" by bidding *two clubs*, which is the Stayman convention.

Partner	You
1 NT	2 C = Partner, do you have a four-card major?

If partner has a four card major, he bids it. If not, he bids *two diamonds*, which says nothing about diamonds.

Partner You
1 NT 2 C (Stayman)
2 D = I do not have a four-card major

Partner You
1 NT 2 C (Stayman)
2 H = I have four hearts

Partner You
1 NT 2 C (Stayman)
2 S = I have four spades

Let's see what happens with the above example hand:

Partner You
1 NT 2 C (Stayman)
2 D 3 NT

Partner has no four-card major, so you bid *three notrump*:

You
A K 8 3
J 10 5 4
Q 3
10 6 4

Partner
Q 7 5
Q 2
A K J 10 2
A 9 8

Your side will take at least three spades, one club, and five diamonds.

Partner	You
1 NT	2 C (Stayman)
2 H	4 H

Partner has four hearts with you, so you raise to *four hearts*:

You
 A K 8 3
 J 10 5 4
 Q 3
 10 6 4

Partner
 Q 7 4
 K Q 3 2
 A K 10 2
 J 9

Partner	You
1 NT	2 C (Stayman)
2 S	4 S

You
 A K 8 3
 J 10 5 4
 Q 3
 10 6 4

Partner
 Q J 10 2
 A K Q
 8 7 6 4
 A 5

Four spades is a good contract, whereas it's possible to go down in three notrump if someone has five diamonds.

Question: What if I have only one four-card major?

You bid Stayman. If partner has the same four-card major you have, you will bid game in that major. If partner has no four-card major, or the other four-card major, you will bid notrump.

Suppose you hold:

```

A K 10 2
Q 3
J 10 8 2
10 7 2

```

Partner	You
1 NT	2 C
2 D	3 NT

Partner	You
1 NT	2 C
2 H	3 NT

Partner	You
1 NT	2 C
2 S	4 S

Question: How many points must I have to bid Stayman?

You need at least 8 points to bid Stayman. If your 8 points are "bad" points, that is, you have no aces or kings or singletons, you should pass. If you have 9 or more points, go ahead and bid Stayman.

Note that with 8-9 points you do not necessarily have enough for game, so you must invite. Suppose you have:

K 10 5 2
 A 4
 J 10 9 3
 10 4 2

Partner	You
1 NT	2 C
2 D	2 NT

Partner	You
1 NT	2 C
2 S	3 S

If partner has a minimum, he will pass your second bid and play the contract in a part-score. If he has a maximum, he will go to game.

Question: If I open one notrump and my partner bids Stayman, what should I do with two four-card majors?

Bid your spades first. If partner does not raise spades, bid your hearts next.

You	Partner
1 NT	2 C
2 S	2 NT
3 H	

In this auction, the 3H bid shows a minimum hand for a 1NT opening. If you hold a maximum hand and 4-4 in the majors, you bid 4H over 2NT.

You	Partner
1 NT	2 C
2 S	3 NT
4 H	

Here partner has enough to bid game and you correct the contract with four hearts, because you know he holds four hearts. Otherwise he would not have used Stayman.