

## The Use of Puppet Stayman Over a 2-NT Opening

There are two main reasons to consider using Puppet Stayman as opposed to regular Stayman. Firstly, and most importantly, opposite any No-Trump opening, when Responder seeks a Major suit Golden Fit through the use of the standard Stayman System, almost 60% of the time, Opener has either no 4-card Major, else the opposite one sought by Responder. As a result, the Partnership winds up in a final No-Trump contract with Opener's (Declarer's) hand, the supposed concealed hand, having disclosed the presence or absence of his/her Major suit holdings. *Puppet Stayman overcomes this to some extent by hiding Opener's Major suit holding in some bidding sequences.*

Secondarily, hands of 20-21-22 HCP's (Subject to Partnership agreement), and holding a 5-card Major (Hearts *or* Spades), are too strong for a **1H** or **1S** opening, and not strong enough for a "2C" opening in standard bidding methods. Many Players, therefore, include them in the group of hands that open 2-NT. *Thus, many Players use Puppet Stayman over a 2-NT opening, even though they might not use it over a 1-NT opening, so as to be able to uncover this, previously hidden 5-card Major suit, if present.*

This Puppet Stayman system of bids is as follows:

<u>Opener</u>	<u>Responder</u>
2-NT	<u>Pass</u>
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3H	<b>Or "3D"</b> = A Transfer to Hearts <u>"Pass"</u> or <b>4H</b> – Dependent upon Point Count
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3S	<b>Or "3H"</b> = A Transfer to Spades <u>"Pass"</u> or <b>4S</b> – Dependent upon Point Count
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	<b>Or 3-NT</b> = To Play with no interest in Opener's Major suit holding <b>Or "3C"</b> = Seeking info about Opener's Major suit holdings
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	<b>3-NT</b> = Denying a 4 or 5-card major <b>Or 3H</b> = Showing a 5-card Heart suit <u>4H</u> = To Play, else <b>3-NT</b>
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	<b>Or 3S</b> = Showing a 5-card Spade suit <u>4S</u> = To Play, else <b>3-NT</b>
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	<b>Or "3D"</b> = Holding one <u>or</u> two 4-card Majors, and denying any 5-card Major <b>"3H"</b> = Showing 4-Spades and denying 4-Hearts <b>4S</b> = Evidencing 4-Spades, and is to Play, else <b>3-NT</b>
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	<b>Or "3S"</b> = Showing 4-Hearts and denying 4-Spades <b>4H</b> = Evidencing 4-Hearts, and is to Play, else <b>3-NT</b>
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	<b>Or 3-NT</b> = Denies a 4-card Major, and is to play <b>Or "4C"</b> = Showing both 4-Hearts and 4-Spades
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<b>4H</b> or <b>4S</b>	