

Puppet Stayman

Puppet Stayman may be used over either 1NT or 2NT openings and asks for 4 and 5 card majors. If you have browsed through the NT bidding book you will see that there is no use/need for it over a 1NT opening. The problem with using it over a 1NT opening is that the responses go to 2NT and so responder needs to have invitational values or better to bid 2♣. If you want to use 2♣ as Puppet Stayman, then the responses etc are as below but one level lower.

Another option over a 1NT opening is to keep your 2♣ as standard (Garbage) Stayman and use 3♣ as Puppet Stayman. It is game forcing and the responses are as below. This works fine if you do not have another meaning for the jump to 3♣ over 1NT.

But Puppet Stayman really is essential over a 2NT opening as there is less room to investigate 4-4 or 5-3 major suit fits below the game level.

3♣: Puppet Stayman, asks for 4 and 5 card majors, reply is as follows: -

- a) 3♦: no 5 card major, but 4♥ and/or 4♠

The 3♣ bidder then shows his major suit holding as follows: -

3♥ shows 4♠	* note 1
3♠ shows 4♥	* note 1
3NT shows no 4 card major, and is to play	* note 2
4♣ shows both majors and interest in slam	
4♦ shows both majors and no slam interest	

Note 1: These responses allow opener to be declarer.

Note 2: The 3♣ bidder may have gone this route because the direct 3NT bid is needed conventionally. Alternatively, he may have a 3 card major and a weak doubleton elsewhere and was hoping to find the 5-3 major suit fit.

- b) 3♥/♠: 5 card suit
c) 3NT: no 4 or 5 card major