

Garbage/Crawling Stayman

What do you do when partner opens 1NT and you have 0-7 points?

- Transfer (5-card major; 6-card minor)
- Garbage Stayman (shortness in Clubs)
- Crawling Stayman (4-4 in the majors, shortness in Diamonds)
- Pass

NOTE: The weaker you are, the better off you are playing in a suit rather than NT.

Garbage Stayman:

- After partners 1NT opener, you bid 2C (Stayman)
- You have 0-7 points, shortness in Clubs, and support for the other three suits. You do not have a 5-card major or you would have transferred!
- 4-4-4-1, 4-4-5-0, 4-3-5-1, 3-4-5-1 shapes
 - T987, A984, 87532, -
 - Q653, Q432, T975, J
 - J872, JT4, 86543, 9
- Best to have at least 4 diamonds, in case partner is 3-3-2-5
- Pass partner's response to your 2C bid

Examples:

West	East	Auction		Comments
T3 AQ82 KJ7 KQT5	8652 KT93 8654 2	P	P	This is a classic Garbage Stayman hand with 4-4-4-1 shape and 3HCP
		2C P		
KT95 AK3 A5 QJT9	J87 Q642 K9873 2	P	P	With 5-7 HCP, and imperfect shape, consider whether it might be best to let partner play 1NT
		2C P		

Crawling Stayman:

- After partners 1NT opener, you bid 2C (Stayman)
- You have 0-7 points, shortness in Diamonds, and 4-4 in the majors.
- 4-4-1-4, 4-4-0-5 shapes
 - T987, A984, -, Q8732
 - Q653, Q432, 5, J975
- If partner responds 2H or 2S after your 2C bid, you pass.

- If partner responds 2D after your 2C bid, you bid 2H (up the line) looking for the best fit. Partner can pass 2H or correct to 2S with a 4-3 fit.
- If partner is 2-2 in the majors (rare), they can bid 3C.
- If you play this, you cannot play the auction 1NT-2C-2D-2H as promising 5 Hearts, 4 Spades and an invitational hand. But you can still play the auction 1NT-2C-2D-2S as promising 5 Spades, 4 Hearts and an invitational hand.

Examples:

West	East	Auction		Comments	
T3 AQ82 KJ7 KQT7	8652 KT93 2 8654	P P	1NT 2H 2C P	P P P P	This is a classic Crawling Stayman hand with 4-4-1-4 shape and 3HCP
AQ8 T3 KJ74 KQT7	T652 KT95 2 8654	P P	1NT 2D 2S 2C 2H	P P P P	You end up in a 4-3 Spade fit because partner has no 4-card major
KT95 AK3 A5 QJT9	J872 Q642 - K8743	P	1NT 2S 2C P	P P	If partner did not have 4 Spades, you would end up in a 4-3 Heart fit
AT AQ KJ864 QJT9	J652 KT95 2 8654	P P	1NT 2D 3C 2C 2H	P P	Opener is 2-2 in the majors (rare), so they know you have a Club fit. They bid 3C and you pass