



Adventures in Bridge

Leaders in Bridge Entertainment and Education

www.advinbridge.com

This Week in Bridge

(153) Range Stayman

© AiB

Level: 5

Robert S. Todd

robert@advinbridge.com

General

A balancing 1NT bid can be a wide-ranging action, about 11-15/16 points. This 5-point range is much larger than most Notrump bids and leaves partner with a more difficult bidding situation. Range Stayman is a tool that can help Advancer better determine the values of our hand and if game is a possibility. Let's see how this works.

Advancer's Bids -- Range Stayman

After a balancing 1NT bid, Advancer normally continues the auction playing Systems On, using similar bids as though partner had overcalled a 1NT bid in the direct seat. Of course, since partner has promised fewer values for a balancing 1NT, Advancer needs to have more values to explore game.

Range Stayman is a method of rebids after Stayman where the 1NT bidder shows both the strength of their hand as well as answers the Stayman question. Bids at the 2-level are traditional answers to Stayman, but also show a minimum hand for a balancing 1NT. With a maximum hand, Opener answers Stayman at the 3-level.

Example - Two-Way Range Stayman

1♦	P	P	1NT
P	2♣	P	—

Minimum Answers

- 2♦ Minimum, 11 to a bad 13 points, no 4-card Major
- 2♥ Minimum, 11 to a bad 13 points, 4-5 card ♥
- 2♠ Minimum, 11 to a bad 13 points, 4-5 card ♠

Maximum Answers

- 3♣ Maximum, Good 13 to 15 points, 4-5 ♣, no 4-card Major
- 3♦ Maximum, Good 13 to 15 points, 4-5 ♦, no 4-card Major
- 3♥ Maximum, Good 13 to 15 points, 4-5 ♥
- 3♠ Maximum, Good 13 to 15 points, 4-5 ♠

3-Way Range Stayman

Some players choose to play a 3-way Range Stayman (usually when they play an even wider ranging 1NT bid, say 11-17 points). In this case, there are three buckets.

- 2-level bids are minimum hands with Stayman answers.
- 2NT is all medium hands with 3♣ as “re-Stayman”.
- 3-level bids are natural and show maximum hands.

Conclusion

When partner balances with a 1NT bid, this is a wide-ranging action and can leave Advancer guessing as to the values of their hand. Range Stayman is a gadget that helps narrow the values of partner’s hand and leaves us in a better position to judge what to do after this wide-ranging 1NT bid. Add this to your hand if partner likes to make balancing 1NT bids with a wide variety of hand strengths.