

# 5 CARD STAYMAN

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The case for opening 1NT so that it could include a 5 card major is primarily based around the difficulty experienced with opener's rebid. Normal transfer bids still apply.

Example 1	♠A8 ♥AQ984 ♦KJ2 ♣Q65	If West opens 1H with this hand and hears a 1S response, what do they rebid? 1NT would show only 12 to 14 HCP and a 2NT rebid shows 18 to 19 HCP.
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The answer lies in ignoring the 5-card major and opening 1NT. It shows the correct number of HCP and promises a balanced shape (4333, 4432 or 5332).

Example 2	♠K7 ♥AK853 ♦Q98 ♣A93	You open 1H and partner responds 1NT. You have no choice but to raise to 2NT in case partner has a maximum. If responder is min (6-7) you may go down in 2NT.
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## ***Opener***

1NT  
2D = No 5-card major (Min)  
2H/2S = 5-card major (Min)  
2NT = No 5-card major (MAX)  
3H/S = 5-card major (MAX)

## ***Responder***

- 2C (Do you have a 5-card major?)

## ***After opener bids 2D***

- a bid of 2H/2S/2NT is non-forcing. Responder is showing a 4 or 5 card suit, looking for the best part score. Opener may pass with 3 cards in the major (possible 4-3 fit) or bid up the line with spades or choose 2NT.

## ***After opener bids 2D or 2NT***

3C by responder is 4 card Stayman, after which;

- Opener answers 3D with ANY 4333 shape (then responder bids their 4-card major)
- 3H/3S with the bid suit and a 4432 shape
- 3NT with either 44 in the minors or a 5-card minor

## ***Transfers by responder after using 2C***

- Over any of opener's rebids, responder can transfer to a major
- 3D is a transfer to hearts
- 3H is a transfer to spades