

# SLAM TRIES AFTER PARTNER OPENS 2NT

Brian Samuels

## Welcome

- Thanks to Debbie Rosenberg.....
- Simplified versions: simple systems with low memory work, easy to use
- REMEMBER: when you open 2NT, your partner is the CAPTAIN!
  - You have limited and defined your hand, so Partner has the most info
  - You don't need to tell your partner again
- Just use what seems easy and makes sense to you & your Partner

## Slam Tries After Partner Opens 2NT

1. Minor Suit Slam Try
2. Minor Suit Stayman
3. Quantitative 4NT
4. Stayman
5. Gerber
6. Jacoby & Texas Transfers – for another time
7. Smolen – for another time

3

## When To Open 2NT?

- Open 2NT with 20 or 21 HCP
- BUT ONLY with a balanced hand
  - 4333, 4432, 5332
- Do not open 2NT with 2 doubletons, unless they are both strong
- Prefer to JUMP SHIFT (or REVERSE) to show a 2 suited hand (5422)
- With (1) 19 HCP, (2) a 5-card suit and (3) a balanced hand, UPGRADE TO 20 points and open 2NT
- Do NOT violate (these & other) Partnership Agreements!

4

## Opener Bids 2C & Rebids 2NT

- When Partner opens 2C and rebids 2NT,
- She promises 22 – 24 HCP & a balanced hand
- Our full 2NT Response System, including these Slam Tries, is ON and ALL THE SAME AGREEMENTS APPLY

6

## Slam Tries After Partner Opens 2NT

1. Minor Suit Slam Try
2. Minor Suit Stayman
3. Quantitative 4NT
4. Stayman
5. Gerber

7

## 1. Minor Suit Slam Try

- An additional use of Stayman
- Bid Stayman, then 4 of your minor with a slam interest hand

e.g. x, x, AKQxxxx, xxxx

2NT            3C

3H            4D

- Opener may now, either
  - Accept, with 3 card support & a good 2NT opener, by making Control Bid, or bidding slam, or
  - Reject, by bidding 4NT as a SIGN OFF! (Note that 4NT here is NOT Blackwood)

8

## 1. Minor Suit Slam Try

- Opener can bid 4NT to sign off & reject Responder's slam invite

2NT            3C

3H            4D

4NT            P      4NT = no thank you, Partner

- BUT, if Opener accepts, by bidding anything other than 4NT sign off, subsequent 4NT is Blackwood

2NT            3C

3H            4D

4H            4NT    4H = Control bid, D suit agreement

4NT = Blackwood

9

## 2. Minor Suit Stayman

- Same idea as 2C/3C (Major Suit) Stayman
- A 3S response to 2NT Opener shows length in both minors (at least 5-4) and interest in a Minor Suit Slam, if Opener has a fit

e.g. xxx, x, AQJxx, Axxx

- Opener bids naturally, either
  - Attempting to sign off in 3NT, or
  - Choosing a minor (with 4 or more and a good 2NT opener)

2NT	3S	Minor Suit Stayman
4C	4NT	4C = 4+ clubs, suit agreement 4NT = Blackwood (clubs agreed)

10

## 2. Minor Suit Stayman

- Opener can reject Partner's invite to explore slam in a minor

2NT	3S	3S = Minor Suit Stayman
3NT	P	3NT = Sorry Partner, no minors

- Or, Opener can accept Partner's invite to explore slam in a minor

2NT	3S	
4D	4H	4D= suit agreement, 4H = control
4NT	5S	4NT = BW, 5S = 2 with Q
6D	P	

11

### 3. What Is 4NT Quantitative?

- Defines your exact point range
- Is in response to Partner's limit bid, which defines her exact point range
- It is an invitational bid, asking Partner to:
  - Bid slam with a maximum, or
  - Pass with a minimum
- REMEMBER: Context matters. Same bid can have different meanings at different times & places in the auction

12

### 3. When Is 4NT Quantitative?

- When 4NT is bid directly over Partner's (natural) No Trump bid
 

2NT	4NT
-----	-----
- When Partner has bid NT and a suit not been EXPLICITLY agreed, even if the 4NT is not bid directly after Partner's NT bid
 

2NT	3C	
3H	4NT	not Blackwood
- Note: Typically, with 2 balanced hands, 33 HCP makes 6NT, 37 HCP makes 7NT

13

## Quantitative Responses After Partner Opens 1NT

A.	1NT	2NT	8-9 HCP, no 4 card M, balanced (invitational)
B.	1NT	3NT	10-15 HCP
C.	<b>1NT</b>	<b>4NT</b>	<b>16-17 HCP (not Blackwood) (invitational)</b>
D.	1NT	5NT	20-21 HCP (slam forcing)
E.	1NT	6NT	18-19 HCP
F.	1NT	7NT	22+ HCP

14

## Stayman After Partner Opens 1NT

A.	1NT 2H	2C 2NT	Stayman (not with 4333) 8-9 HCP with 4 spades (invitational)
B.	1NT 2H	2C 3NT	Stayman 10-15 HCP with 4 spades
C.	<b>1NT 2H</b>	<b>2C 4NT</b>	<b>Stayman 16-17 HCP with 4 spades (not Blackwood) (invitational)</b>

15

## Stayman After Partner Opens 1NT

D.	1NT 2H	2C 5NT	Stayman 20-21 HCP with 4 spades
E.	1NT 2H	2C 6N	Stayman 18-19 HCP with 4 spades
F.	1NT 2H	2C 7N	Stayman 22+ HCP with 4 spades

16

## Stayman After Partner Opens 2NT

A.	2NT 3H	3C 3NT	Stayman (not with 4333) 4-11 HCP
B.	<b>2NT</b> <b>3H</b>	<b>3C</b> <b>4NT</b>	<b>Stayman</b> <b>12 HCP (not Blackwood)</b>
C.	2NT 3H	3C 5NT	Stayman 16 HCP
D.	2NT 3H	3C 6NT	Stayman 13-15 HCP
E.	2NT 3H	3C 7NT	Stayman 17+ HCP

17



## But Wait...

- What if I have a fit with Opener's major & want to make a slam try?

18

## 4. Stayman

- After Stayman, if Opener bids a major, Responder's bid of the OTHER MAJOR, accepts Opener's major and is an artificial slam try

A.	2NT	3C	3S= artificial, nothing about S
	3H	3S! (alertable)	slam try, agree hearts
	4C	4NT	4C = H agreed, control bid
			4NT = BW since H agreed
B.	2NT	3C	4H=artificial, nothing about H,
	3S	4H! (alertable)	S agreement, slam interest
	4NT		BW, since S agreed

19

## 4. Stayman

C.	2NT	3C	
	3S	3NT	3NT = I have H, not S, sign off
D.	2NT	3C	
	3S	4S	4S = I have S too, for game only
E.	2NT	3C	
	3S	4NT	4NT = I have H, quantitative, 12 HCP

20

## 4. Stayman

F.	2NT	3C	
	3S	4H! (alert)	4H = S agreement, slam interest
	4NT	5S	4NT = BW; 5S = 2 KC + Q
	5NT	6S	5NT = 5 KC + Q; 6S = no K
	P		

21

## 5. Gerber

- Used only when you want to know number of Aces (+ maybe Kings)
- Keep it simple to know when 4C is Gerber
- 4C is Gerber if and only if:
  - Responder jumped to 4C, AND
  - Bid in response to your NATURAL NT bid
- Other 4C bids will be/become helpful as Splinters, Control Bids & Minor Suit Slam Tries
- Keep it simple in operation
  - Gerber asks for Aces
  - 5C asks for Kings
  - Any other bid is to play (sign off)

22

## 5. Gerber

- Keeping it simple
- Gerber (4C) asks for number of Aces
  - 4D = 0 or 4
  - 4H = 1
  - 4S = 2
  - 4NT = 3
- 5C asks for number of Kings (5D = 0 or 4, 5H = 1, 5S = 2, 5NT = 3)
- Any follow-up bid, other than 5C, is to play (sign off)

23

## 5. Gerber

A.	2NT 4NT	4C P	Gerber 4NT = 3 Aces, P = sign off
B.	2NT 4S P	4C 5H	4S = 2 Aces, 5H = to play
C.	2NT 4D 5H P	4C 5C 7NT	4D = 4 Aces, 5C = K ask 5H = 1 King

24

## Slam Tries After Partner Opens 2NT

1. Minor Suit Slam Tries
2. Minor Suit Stayman
3. Quantitative 4NT
4. Stayman
5. Gerber

25

## Hand 1 - Stayman

	2N – 3C*	North	A64	North deals, All vul
	3H – 3S		AQJ4	
	4NT – 5C		AK86	
	6H - P		K5	
952				JT
T2				875
J97				T42
T9876				AQJ32
	Double Fit		KQ873	
	S 5-3		K963	
	H 4-4*		Q53	
			4	

29

## Hand 2 – Minor Suit Stayman

	2NT – 3S	North	9875	East deals, All vul
	4D – 4H		T9862	
	4NT – 5C		T97	
	6D - P		A	
4				AQ62
7				AQ
AQ8532				KJ64
QT762				KJ5
	6D with only 28 HCP		KJT3	
	Can't make 6NT		KJ543	
			-	
			9843	

31

## Hand 3 – Minor Suit Slam Try

2NT – 3C	North	T9	South deals, All vul
3H – 4D		T98	
4NT – 5H		AKJ9864	
6D - P		5	
8752			QJ643
Q53			762
T			72
AQT32			986
Who made 6D?		AK	
How?		AKJ4	
		Q53	
		KJ74	

34

## Hand 4 - Gerber

2NT – 4C	North	Q65	West deals, All vul
4D – 5C		764	
5H – 7NT		986	
		9865	
AJ42			K3
A53			KQJT98
AJ75			KT
AK			Q73
		T987	
<i>What is East's bidding plan?</i>		2	
<i>Gerber!</i>		Q432	
<i>If 4A, then bid 5C, if 0 K, then 6H</i>		JT42	
<i>if 1 K, then 7NT</i>			

37