

2♠ Stayman adjunct

The agreement

Following a 1N opening, responder's 2♠ bid is initially ambiguous with 3 possible meanings:

- a) Invitational to 3N
- b) A weak transfer to ♣, intending to play 3♣
- c) A strong transfer to ♣, game forcing, with at least mild slam interest

Opener must bid 2N with any hand that would decline a 3N game invitation, or 3♣ with a hand that would accept a game invitation. Thus, there are only 2 initial continuations:

- 1) Minimum 1N 2♠; 2N I cannot accept an invitation to 3N (says nothing about ♣s)
- 2) Maximum 1N 2♠; 3♣ I will accept an invitation to 3N (says nothing about ♣s)

The partnership is able to play below game in 2N or 3♣, to play in game at 3N, or to investigate for slam in NT or ♣. In the following section, the further continuations are described under the six possible responder-opener hand combinations: a-1, a-2, b-1, b-2, c-1, c-2.

Continuations

a) Responder bids 2♠ to invite 3N

Case a-1: Opener is minimum; responder must pass the 2N continuation.

1N 2♠
2N pass

Case a-2: Opener is maximum; responder must convert the 3♣ continuation to 3N.

1N 2♠
3♣ 3N

There are no other cases when responder is making a simple invitation to game. Either opener declines by bidding 2N to play, or opener accepts by bidding 3♣ and responder must convert.

b) Responder bids 2♠ as a weak transfer intending to play 3♣

Case b-1: Opener is minimum; responder corrects to 3♣ and opener must pass.

1N 2♠
2N 3♣
pass

Case b-2: Opener is maximum; responder simply passes opener's 3♣ response.

1N 2♠
3♣ pass

There are no other cases when responder is making a weak transfer to ♣.

c) *Responder bids 2♠ as a strong transfer, forcing to game, with slam interest*

Case c-1: Opener is minimum; responder rebids above 3♣.

The partnership is forced to at least 3N. Responder must not rebid 3♣, or opener will pass. Traditional descriptive continuations following a minor suit transfer can be employed to show shortness or a strong semi-balanced hand. For example,

1N	2♠	
2N	3♦	♦-shortness, 6+ ♣'s slam interest
	3♥	♥-shortness, 6+ ♣'s slam interest
	3♠	♠-shortness, 6+ ♣'s slam interest
	3N	semi-balanced, strong ♣-transfer with no shortness

Opener is allowed to pass 3N, or to bid 3N over responder's splinter to suggest playing there. With a ♣-fit, opener may bid 4♣ or make a Keycard-ask.

Responder's continuations above 3N show strong slam interest, and must be agreed by the partnership. One possibility is to adopt the continuations described below.

Case c-2: Opener is strong; partnership is usually forced to at least 4N.

1N	2♠	
3♣	3♦	♦-shortness, 6+ ♣'s slam interest
	3♥	♥-shortness, 6+ ♣'s slam interest
	3♠	♠-shortness, 6+ ♣'s slam interest
	3N	semi-balanced, 6+ ♣', opener continues only with good fit
	4♣	hand-off; please bid 4♦ kickback, or cue-bid
	4♦	kickback
	4♥	♥-exclusionary ask
	4♠	♠-exclusionary ask
	4N	♦-exclusionary ask