

1N – 3♣: Modified Puppet Stayman

Based on an article by Justin Lall: <https://justinlall.com/2011/09/07/puppet-stayman-after-a-1n-opener/>

General Agreement

1N	3♣	
3♦		Denies a 5-card major; does not deny a 4-card major
3♥		Promises five ♥s
3♠		Promises five ♠s

- 3♣ is game-forcing. Opener's responses are restricted to 3♦, 3♥ or 3♠ (see above).
- Responder is not 4=4 or 5-4 in the majors, and usually not 4-3=3-3.
- Responder is most often
 - a) 5-3-3-2 with a 5-card minor, at least one major-suit fragment, and a worthless doubleton
 - b) 4-3=4-2 with a 4-card major, a 4-card minor, and a worthless doubleton

3♥/3♠: Opener Promises a 5-Card Major

When opener's 5-card major matches responder's 3-card or 4-card suit:

1N	3♣		1N	3♣	
3♥	3♠	Strong slam try	3♠	4♥	Strong slam try**
	4♥	Game-force only		4♠	Game-force only

Without a fit, responder may subside in 3N, or may show a 5-card minor to continue a slam try by:

1N	3♣		1N	3♣	
3♥	3N	3=2=4=4	3♠	3N	2=3=4=4
	4♣	3=2=3=5		4♣	2=3=3=5**
	4♦	3=2=5=3		4♦	2=3=5=3

With no fit for the minor, opener may retreat to 4N (minimum) or otherwise attempt to reach slam.
 (** JL Inversion: 4♣ to signal a strong slam try in ♠s, with 4♦ and 4♥ as slam tries in the minors.)

3♦: Opener Denies a 5-Card Major

When opener denies a 5-card major, responder's 3♥ or 3♠ shows 4 cards in the other major.

Otherwise, responder may subside in 3N or may continue a slam try by showing a 5-card minor:

1N	3♣	
3♦	3♥	Shows 4 ♠s: opener's 3N, 4♠ to play; advance cue-bids agree ♠s with maximum
	3♠	Shows 4 ♥s: opener's 3N, 4♥ to play; advance cue-bids agree ♥s with maximum
	3N	Game-force only
	4♣	Slam try in ♣, any 5-3-3-2 with 5 ♣s
	4♦	Slam try in ♦, any 5-3-3-2 with 5 ♦s

When opener rebids 3N, responder may pass, or show a 4-card minor to continue a slam try:

1N	3♣		1N	3♣	
3♦	3♥		3♦	3♠	
3N	pass		3N	pass	
	4♣	4=3=2=4 slam try		4♣	3=4=2=4 slam try
	4♦	4=3=4=2 slam try		4♦	3=4=4=2 slam try

Opener can cooperate with the minor suit slam try via Kickback, or discourage by rebidding 4N.