

**Checkback Stayman**  
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Checkback Stayman is a nifty convention which is used most commonly after an opening bid of one of a minor and then a one of a major response with the opening bidder then jumping to 2 NT.

1 D - 1♥  
2 NT - **3♣ by responder is now checkback stayman**

Why are we doing this??

The opening bidder may also have a four card other major suit OR may have 3 card support for the responder's 5 card major.

Let's have a look at above auction again:

1 D - 1♥  
2 NT - **3♣**

Responses to 3♣ are as follows:

3♦ says: I do not have 3 card support for your major suit (♥) nor do I have 4 cards in the other major .  
3♥ says: I have 3 card support for your ♥ suit but I do NOT have 4 spades.  
3♠ says: I have a 4 card ♠ suit but do not have 3 card support for your ♥ suit.  
3 NT says: I have both 3 card support for ♥ and also a four card ♠ suit.

Now let's check out the other major suit situation:

1♦ - 1♠  
2NT - **3♣**

Responses to 3♣ are as follows:

3♦ says: I do not have 3 card support for your major suit (♠)nor do I have 4 cards in the other major (♥)  
3♠ says: I have 3 card support for your ♠ suit but I do NOT have 4 hearts.  
3♥ says: I have a 4 card ♥ suit but do not have 3 card support for your ♠ suit.  
3 NT says: I have both 3 card support for ♠ and also a four card ♥ suit.

**The only time you would ever use this convention is if you have 4-4 in the majors or you have 4-5 in the majors or you have one five card major.**

The responder now places the contract, equipped with more information about opener's hand.

Let's look at two situations in which it would be useful to be playing Checkback Stayman:

♠ K543  
♥ KQ87  
♦ Q76  
♣ 42

♠ AQ76  
♥ J106  
♦ AK83  
♣ A5

South opens

S	N
1D	1♥
2NT	3♣* (Checkback Stayman)
3NT	4♠

Note that if NS was not playing Checkback Stayman, North would have now bid 3NT after South's jump to 2 NT. If the opening lead was a ♣, then South would never be able to make 3NT. He would have to drive out the A♥ and then EW would be able to cash 4♣ tricks quickly. 4S is an easy contract.

Let's look at one more example:

♠ AQ742  
♥ 32  
♦ 765  
♣ Q43

♠ K65  
♥ AQ7  
♦ Q32  
♣ AKJ2

S	N
1♣	1♠
2NT	3♣* (Checkback Stayman)
3♠	4♠

North can easily make 4♠ but 3NT by South is doomed on a ♦ opening lead by West.

Checkback Stayman is alertable as are all the responses. You need to have enough points to be in game in order to use this convention.

**We never want to miss an 8 card major suit fit. Remember that it is always much safer to play the hand in a major suit contract than in No trumps.**