

BRIDGE TIPS FROM ALEX & BARBARA

What is this auction? Opponents are not bidding.

1.

1D - 1NT

2N

What does the 2NT bid mean?

- a) 12-14 HCP balanced?
- b) 18-19 HCP balanced?
- c) 15-17 HCP balanced?

2.

1H - 1NT (You are playing 2/1 with 1 NT being Forcing)

2NT

What does the 2NT bid mean?

- a) 12-14 HCP balanced?
- b) 18-19 HCP balanced?
- c) 15-17 HCP balanced?

3.

Responder

S A765

H K7

D 754

C KJ54

Opening Bidder

S 943

H A6

D AKJ32

C 863

Bid the Opening bidder's and the Responder's hands.

Please start the auction with

1D - 1S

2D - ?

Continue the rest of the auction, even if as South you may not have chosen to bid 2D.

4.

Responder

S A765

H K7

D 754

C A854



Opening Bidder

S K43
H A6
D AK832
C 763

Please start the auction with

1D - 1S
2D - ?

Continue the rest of the auction, even if as South you may not have chosen to bid 2D.

5.

You are South. Your RHO (Right Hand Opponent: East) opens with 1D. You say "Double". Your LHO says Pass. Your partner (North) bids 1S. Pass by RHO. You now bid 1NT. What does your hand look like and how many HCP do you have?

6.

You are South. Your RHO (Right Hand Opponent: East) opens with 1D. You say "Double". Your LHO says Pass. Your partner (North) bids 1H. Pass by RHO. You now bid 1S. What does your hand look like and how many points do you have?

ANSWERS:

1. Responder has exactly and precisely 6-10 HCP and no four card major. The opening bidder (OB) with a minimum hand knows that this cannot ever total enough points for game so with 12-14 HCP, OB must now pass.

If OB had 15-17 HCP balanced, he would have opened 1NT.

Therefore, OB has promised 18-19 HCP balanced. The rebid by opener of 3NT shows a different hand, usually with a long running minor. With a balanced hand, the rebid must be 2NT.

2. You are playing 2/1 and 1NT is forcing. OB MUST bid again BUT she may not bid 2NT as her choice of rebid unless she has 18-19 HCP because Responder may have had only 6 points.

Therefore, with only 13-15 points, she must bid a new **suit** after 1NT, (or rebid her own suit, showing six cards) but may not bid 2NT.

If OB had 15-17 HCP balanced, he would have opened 1NT.

2NT would be an impossible contract to make if Opener only had 13 HCP and Responder only had 6 points.

3.

1D - 1S
2D - 2NT
Pass

The 2NT bid by Responder promises 11-12 HCP and is inviting OB with a maximum (extra points) to bid game. OB has nothing extra and must pass.

4.

1D - 1S

2D - 2NT

3NT

This time, OB has extra points (14 HCP) and accepts the invitation, bidding 3NT. Contrast this with # 3 where OB had only 12 HCP.

5.

What you have to remember here is that you have forced partner to bid. She could have as little as

S 5432

H 543

D 543

C 543

And so, the doubler with only 13-15 points may NOT bid again. He must like whatever his partner bids. He has told his story and may not bid again if partner has shown only 0-8 points. If the partner of the takeout double had 9+ points, he would have jumped and bid 2S or with 13+ points and five Spades, he would have bid 4S.

If the doubler had 15-17 HCP and a Diamond stopper, he would have overcalled 1NT then and there. Thus, this doubler must have 18-19 HCP and a Diamond stopper.

6.

Once again, Responder to the takeout double could have had this hand for her 1H response:

S 543

H 5432

D 543

C 543

If the doubler had

S AK872

H A76

D 76

C QJ6

He would have made a simple overcall, which promises 8-17 points and a decent five-card or longer suit.

So, to double first and then bid your own suit (in spite of the fact that partner has 0-8 points), this doubler must have 18 or more points, including distribution.

ARE SQUEEZES ONLY FOR LOVERS?

Sometimes you squeeze those you do not love!

Hand below is by Eddie Kantar. Commentary is by Tony Jackson, much-loved bridge teacher from Santa Rosa, California.

♠ K Q 6
♥ Q J 6
♦ Q 6 3
♣ A K 4 2



♠ A J 3
♥ A K 10
♦ A K 4 2
♣ Q 6 5

West *North* *East* *South*
7 NT

All pass

7 NT by South
Lead: ♠ 10

You have 12 tricks: 3 spades, 3 hearts, 3 diamonds and 3 clubs. Although you have 38 high card points, there are only 12 tricks off the top.

Most people would try the diamonds and the clubs to see if either suit splits 3-3. When they don't, they go down.

But a squeeze is another possibility. What exactly is a squeeze?

If one of the two opponents has 4 (or more) clubs AND 4 or more diamonds, then that person can be squeezed. You are forcing them to make a discard.

Say East has 4 clubs and 4 diamonds. If you play out the clubs and diamonds first, you will get bad news and get set. But what if you play the spades and the hearts first?

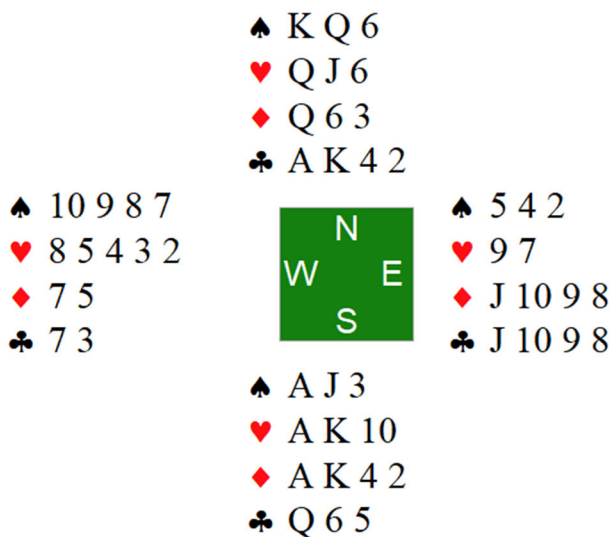
Since East has 8 cards in the minor suits, it means East has only 5 cards in the major suits. So when you play your 6 major suit winners, West will be forced to discard a card from one of the minor suits. You watch for that discard and Wow, you have a 13th trick.

East doesn't want to part with that minor suit card, but they have to pitch something.

And at this point in class, sometimes someone says "but what if one of the suits doesn't split 4-3 but instead splits 5-2 or 6-1 or 7-0? Will the squeeze still work?" The answer is still a resounding YES.

For example, what if the opponents' clubs split 5-2 and diamonds split 4-3: as long as the same person has the long clubs AND the long diamonds, that person can be squeezed. If East has 5 clubs and 4 diamonds, then they have only 4 cards in the major suits. When you play your 6 major suit winners, that person will be forced to make 2 discards from the minor suits. They will either discard down to 3 clubs or 3 diamonds. Either way, you will have a 13th trick.

Here is the full hand.



<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			7 NT

All pass

7 NT by South

Lead: ♠ 10

OPENING LEADS QUIZ

Here is a mini lesson on opening leads.

In a small nutshell, here it is:

1. 1NT by RHO and 6NT by LHO.

You have:

S KJ643

H K98

D 654

C 43

What do you lead?

2. 1NT by RHO and 3NT by LHO. You have

S 1097

H 1097

D 75432

C 109

What do you lead?

3. 1D by RHO, 1H by LHO, 1N by RHO and 3N by LHO. Double by your partner after 3NT.

S KJ432

H 109

D 7543

C J10

What do you lead?

4. 1S by partner, 1NT by RHO, 3NT by LHO.

S Q43

H 8742

D Q109

C 1092

What will you lead?

1. Rule of 40. Your opponents have 33 HCP and you have 7 HCP. Partner has nothing at all. If you lead a Spade or a Heart, you are giving Declarer a free trick. Make a passive lead: D6.

2. Spade 10 or Heart 10. Do not lead your long weak suit when you have no entries to your hand. Try instead to find partner with something in a major, especially since there was no Stayman in the auction.

3. When the partner of the Opening leader doubles a 3NT contract, it asks for an unusual lead...usually dummy's first bid suit. So, lead the H 10. Partner likely has Hearts: KQJ87 and a side Ace as an entry.

4. Partner opened 1S. Lead her suit. S3. Bottom of something. Only lead the Q if it is a doubleton. If you lead the Q in this scenario above (in the hand given), partner will have Axxxx and Declarer will have KJx. How Declarer gets TWO tricks instead of just one in Spades.

WESTERN CUEBIDDING by BARBARA SEAGRAM

CUE BIDDING TO ASK PARTNER IF SHE HAS A STOPPER (also called the WESTERN CUE-BID)

Bidding the enemy suit usually means that you do not have an available clear-cut action to take. If you have a clear-cut action, do that and do not cue bid opponents' suit. Bidding the opponents' suit sometimes means that you have enough points for game but do not know which game you can play in.

Remember our priorities:

- MAJOR SUIT GAMES are our favourites.
- NT GAMES are next best.
- MINOR SUIT GAMES are our last and least choice, because they score so poorly @ 20 points a trick only. AND you have to take 11 tricks!

Let's have a look at an example:

West	North	East	South
1S	2H	3C	Pass
3D	Pass	3H*	Pass
3 NT			

West's hand

AQxxx
Kx
AJ9xx
x

East's hand

x
xxx
Qxx
AKQJxx

*West has a Heart stopper so now bids NT. This is called a Western Cuebid. A Western cuebid takes place later in the auction, when the opponents have bid a suit.

Another example:

West		East
AQxxx		x
Kx		AQxxxx
xx		xxx
QJxx		AKx

West	North	East	South
1S	2D	2H	Pass
2S	Pass	3D	Pass
3H	Pass	4H	

West had no stopper in opponents' suit so merely showed East his (sort-of) support for hearts.

	QJ2	
	953	
	A9743	
	54	
85		AK1097
J842		K106
J865		10
Q92		J763
	643	
	AQ7	
	KQ2	
	AK108	

West	North	East	South
			1C
Pass	1D	1S	2S

If bidding goes 1C by south – 1H by partner and 1S by RHO, then 2S shows H support and a strong hand. With a minimum, you would simply raise partner. Even with only 3 card support. Or if playing support doubles, you would double to show three-card support.

BUT when partner responds in a minor, you would prefer to investigate the possibility of playing in NT. Hence you bid 2S which shows Diamond support BUT ALSO asks partner to bid NT if he has a spade stopper. Because you do not really wish to play in game in diamonds (or rarely). You ARE showing Diamond support but also asking her if she has a stopper in bad guys' suit. This is NOT a bid at the 3 level so it is not a Western cuebid. But it does serve the same purpose.

How should the following hands be bid?

1. South opens 1D

WEST	EAST
S 65	S K109
H K3	H AQ5
D A43	D 652
C KQ10984	C AJ72

S	W	N	E
1D	2C	P	2D
P	2N	P	3N

2. South opens 1H

WEST	EAST
S KQJ3	S A98
H KJ	H 43
D AQJ1075	D K93
C 9	C QJ532

S	W	N	E
1H	DbI	P	3C*
P	3D**	P	3H
P	3NT		

*As responder to takeout double, if E bid 2C, it would show 0-8. Hence the jump to show more points.

** When a player doubles first and then bids their suit, it shows 18 or more points.

3. South opens 3C.

WEST	EAST
S K9654	S A732
H AJ73	H K642
D KQJ	D A5
C 6	C J42

S	W	N	E
3C	DbI	P	4C*
P	4S		

* 4C asks partner to pick her best major. This is NOT a Western cuebid but rather, tells partner to choose because you don't want to. You are passing the buck.

4. North Overcalls 2D

WEST	EAST
S AQ954	S 7
H K2	H AQ8643
D 52	D 984
C QJ84	C AK3

S	W	N	E
	1S	2D	2H
P	2S	P	3D
P	3H	P	4H

5. N overcalls 2H

WEST	EAST
S AQ763	S 2
H K2	H 743
D AJ942	D Q53
C 9	C AKQJ72

S	W	N	E
	1S	2H	3C
P	3D	P	3H
P	3N		

6. S overcalls 2H

WEST	EAST
S A9743	S K
H 76	H 843
D AQ5	D KJ2
C K42	C AQJ953

S	W	N	E
	1S	P	2C
2H	P	P	3H
P	4C	P	5C

After S bids 2H, West passes with a minimum hand. When E bids 3H seeking a stopper in Hearts, West does not have a stopper so just reverts back to 4 Clubs with such a minimum hand. East has extras and bids 5C.

7. North overcalls 2D

WEST	EAST
S 76	S AK532
H 42	H AJ10
D KQ3	D 42
C AKJ874	C Q53

S	W	N	E
	1C	2D*	2S
P	3C	P	3D
P	3NT		

* 2D shows a weak hand and a good 6 card suit.

This can be confusing but you can do this. The western cuebid refers to when your side bids the opponents' suit at the THREE level. NOT when it is immediate i.e. showing a limit raise or better.

Bidding the opponents' suit at the 3 level does NOT mean you have their suit. In other words, it is NOT natural. (i.e. it is a fake bid.) It asks for a stopper in opponents' suit.

W	N	E	S
1C	Pass	1H	1S
3C	Pass	3S	

When West bid 3C, he was saying he has 16-18 points and at least six clubs. IF you are playing support doubles (a GREAT convention to learn, by the way), then the 3C bid denies 3 card or longer support for Hearts.

So, what is East's bid. He may have a hand like this:

532
AQ752
K76
J4

He wants to know if West has a Spade stopper. If he does, he will bid 3NT, preferring to play in 3NT than in 5C.

If opener (West) had

K7
8
J76
AKQ8532

He would now bid 3NT.

If East has a Spade stopper, he would bid 3NT himself instead of making the Western Cuebid. He does not need to have Diamonds stopped. It is really all about having the opponents' suit stopped, since the bad guys are most likely going to lead that suit.

West (Opener)				East (Responder)
A9				K7543
J95				A4
AK7				J965
AQ1076				93
W	N	E	S	
1C	1H	1S	2H	
3H	P	3N		

3H is a Western cue bid. Opener's hand is strong but he does not have support for responder's Spades and does not have a Heart stopper. So he is seeking more information from partner. "Do you have a Heart stopper?" East does so he bids 3NT.

If East had NO Heart stopper, he would just have to rebid his Spades, sadly.

IMPORTANT RULES ABOUT WESTERN CUEBIDS:

1. Western Cuebids only occur ever at the three level.

W	N	E	S
1H	1S	2S*	

*2S is a cuebid which shows a limit raise or better (10 or more pts) and support for Hearts. It is NOT asking for a stopper in opponents' suit.

2. It is never a Western Cuebid if you and partner have already agreed on an 8 card or better major suit fit.

But it often is after you have agreed on a minor suit and would prefer to be in a No trump contract.

W	N	E	S
1H	1S	2H	2S
3S*			

*3S is showing an interest in slam and showing first round control of Spades (an Ace or a void).

Because you and your partner have already agreed on a fit in Hearts, you cannot now be trying to play the hand in NT. MAJORS are to die for and thou shalt play in a major if you have an 8 card fit in the major. If you have trouble with this concept, read this over and over again.

LEADING TRUMP by Tony Jackson

When do you lead a trump and when do you avoid leading trump? All you have to go by is the auction and your own hand, but there are some auctions that scream for a trump lead, and yet sometimes a trump lead is the last thing you should do.

When to Lead Trump

The most important time to lead a trump is when it stands a good chance of cutting down on the opponents' ruffing power. That's a clear number one. In addition, we sometimes lead trump because the auction doesn't discourage a trump lead and all the other suits have something about them that makes you not want to lead them. But that's not so much because we really want to lead trump, but more because it seems safer.

So we lead trump primarily in two situations:

- a: to cut down on ruffing by declarer
- b: when it feels safer than a suit lead

I'm going to focus on the first point. When does the auction indicate that ruffing might be in the works?

Look at this auction:

Auction 1: responder takes preference to opener's second suit

(1H) - P - (1S) - P
(2C) - P (3C) - All Pass

What do we know about opener?

Opener has 5+ hearts, 4+ clubs
Opener doesn't have 4 spades
Opener is probably not balanced (because they didn't rebid notrump).
Opener has a minimum opening hand because they did not accept the invite.

What do we know about responder?

Responder has 4 spades
Responder has enough points to invite game, but not enough to insist on game.
Probably 10 to 12 hcp.
Responder has 4 or more clubs.
Responder has fewer than 3 hearts.

So putting this all together, opener has 5 hearts and responder has 2 or fewer hearts. What is opener going to do? They are going to ruff hearts in the dummy. Declarer will most likely play a couple of hearts, then will be ruffing one or two hearts, and eventually will establish the 5th heart as a good trick.

Worst case:

H AKxxx opposite xx <=== opener wins 2 rounds of hearts, ruffs 2 hearts in dummy, makes the 5th heart good.

Also possible:

H AQxxx opposite x <=== win 1 round of hearts, ruff 3 hearts in dummy, possibly make the 5th heart good.

Various other possibilities are possible too. But I hope you see the writing on the wall: opener will win a trick or two, then ruff a trick or two, and finally win a final established heart. So if you can keep leading trump (clubs) you can cut down on the number of heart ruffs that declarer can get in dummy.

Another possibility:

H KQxxx opposite x

If this is the situation and you lead a trump on the opening lead, then when the defense wins the first heart trick, they can lead another trump. This gets 2 trump out of dummy, and makes it harder for opener to get their ruffs.

To sum it up: When responder takes preference to opener's second suit, it means they are short in opener's first suit, and that means you want to lead a trump to cut down on ruffing ability.

Let's contrast that with this auction:

Auction 2: responder takes preference to opener's first suit

(1D) - P - (1S) - P

(2C) - P - (2D) - All Pass

Now responder took a preference to opener's first suit, not opener's second suit. This is a different situation.

Opener probably has fewer clubs than diamonds since clubs is the second suit. Opener may not be trying to establish the clubs.

Responder might not be so short in clubs: they need 4 clubs to raise, and if they have 3 clubs, then opener isn't going to get many ruffs.

So this time, leading a trump is not called for.

When I first heard about trump leads, I used to mix up those two situations. It's important to know the difference.

When to Avoid a Trump Lead

There are a couple of cases where you want to avoid a trump lead.

Case 1: singleton trump: One of the worst times to lead a trump is when you have a singleton.

If you are not aware of this, then you really need to understand this. What I sometimes hear people say is "I'm leading my singleton trump because I have no shortness and so I don't expect to get a ruff, so it's safe." While that sounds reasonable, what it neglects is thinking about their partner.

When you lead a singleton trump, you often finesse your partner out of their honor.

Think about this. You are declarer in a contract of 4 Spades and you have an 8-card fit missing the Queen:

KT4 <=== dummy

AJ652 <=== your hand

What are you going to do? Finesse. Which way? You aren't sure. But wouldn't you love it if an opponent led a trump and the queen came down on the first round ("third hand high") and you captured the Queen with your Ace? No more finessing worries.

Even worse, declarer could have 9 trump missing the queen and they were planning on playing for the drop. But your finesse makes that unnecessary now. You could have had a trump trick but you finessed your partner out of it.

When you lead a singleton trump, you often help declarer. Leading from a doubleton trump holding can also help declarer. Something to consider.

Case 2: when you need to grab your tricks

Sometimes the auction makes it clear that there is a long side-suit and they might grab their tricks. Here is an auction Eddie mentions in "Modern Bridge Defense":

(1S) - P - (2C) - P

(2S) - P - (4S) - All Pass

Here, responder has shown a club suit and the opponents found their way to a game in spades. What is opener going to do with responder's clubs? Given the chance, opener will establish dummy's clubs and discard losers from the other suits in opener's hand. So if you have any tricks in the two other suits (in this case, diamonds and hearts) you need to grab them ASAP.

Another way to think of it: leading a trump is too passive for this situation. You need to be active and grab your tricks.

If you are thinking "wait a minute, how do you know that responder has a good club suit?" - well, it's possible that responder has only a 4 card club suit, but you know that clubs is responder's best suit and quite often the suit is 5 or more cards in length. So while it's no guarantee that the opponents are going to rattle off AKQ of clubs (and declarer gets to pitch some losers), it's a possibility you should consider.

Case 3: Your side has the points but they bid to the heavens

Sometimes you and your partner have a good fit but the pesky opponents bid too high. Consider this:

1H - (1S) - 2S - (3S)

4H - (P) - P - (4S)

X - (P) - P - P

You and your partner bid to 4 hearts after you opened and your partner showed a limit raise or better (by cuebidding the opponents' suit). Then the opponents push to 4 spades and you double them.

You need to lead a trump: what are they bidding on? Distribution and air. You have the points, they have the trump. Lead a trump to minimize the ruffs they get.

What does Eddie Kantar say?

He lists 4 specific situations that call for a trump lead:

1. Declarer bids two suits, and dummy prefers the second
2. Partner passes your one-level takeout double
3. Your side has most of the points, yet they wind up playing the hand (the nerve!)
4. Dummy makes a single raise and you have honors in every other suit (trump is a passive, safe lead)

Conflict! Now what?

I was playing in game a couple of months ago and this auction occurred:

(1S) - P - (1NT) - P

(2H) - P - (4H) - All Pass

This looks to me like it calls for a trump lead. After all, responder took a preference to opener's second suit. Opener clearly has 5 spades and responder probably has 2 or less. Responder might have only 4 hearts, so let's pull some of them asap.

What was the problem? I held a singleton trump! All the advice is "never lead a singleton trump." So what rule do I follow?

I decided to lead the trump, and after the game I asked two of my mentors about this very situation. They were unequivocal in their opinions: definitely lead a trump, they said. Leading a singleton trump is often bad, but in this case, it is more important to lead a trump to cut down on the opponents ruffing power.

THE 4-4 FIT or THE 5-3 FIT...DOES IT MATTER??

by Barbara Seagram

Sometimes we have a choice between playing a suit contract in a 5-3 fit or selecting another suit as trumps in which we have a 4-4 fit.

Let's have a look at an example:

	AK87 AQJ64 6 953	
3 9875 KJ93 J1084		9642 3 108742 KQ2
	QJ105 K102 AQ5 A76	

Dealer: North

N	E	S	W
1H	P	1S	P
3S	P	4NT	P
5H*	P	???	

* 5 H would be the correct response to REGULAR Blackwood.

5D would be the correct response to KEY CARD BLACKWOOD SHOWING 3 or 0 key cards (playing 1430)

What should South bid next? He knows that NS has a 4-4 spade fit. His next bid should be 6S.

If instead South bids 6H, knowing that North has a five card Heart suit, then let's now see what happens to the contract of 6H.

With Hearts as trumps, North has 2 Club losers. There is no solution for these Club losers. He can try the Diamond finesse but it fails and North goes down one in 6 Hearts.

If South plays the contract in 6 Spades, then he can ruff two Diamonds in North hand (dummy) and then draw trump, pitching 2 Clubs from South hand on the long Heart suit in dummy. making 7. *Be careful to ruff one Diamond HIGH in dummy so that you retain a small Spade in North hand with which to return to South hand and draw the remaining trump.*

Note therefore that the 4-4 fit is superior as after drawing trumps, you get discards (pitches) on the "lopsided" suit. With the 5-3 fit as trumps, there are no pitches possible with the 4-4 suit.

Here's another example:

	K43	
	1098	
	432	
	KJ109	
QJ92		1085
KJ76		AQ532
A87		109
86		754
	A76	
	4	
	KQJ65	
	AQ32	

If South plays this hand in 5 Diamonds, he will be down 1.

If South plays this hand in 5 Clubs, he can pitch a Spade from dummy on his long Diamonds and make the contract.

Moral of the story: Lopsided suits (Top heavy!) are best to have as a side (non-trump) suit so that you can make discards...IF you have the luxury of choosing a 4-4 fit that can be trumps instead.

Checkback Stayman by Barbara Seagram

Checkback Stayman is a nifty convention which is used most commonly after an opening bid of one of a minor and then a response of one of a major. The opening bidder then jumps to 2 NT. Now what?

1 D - 1H
2 NT - 3C

This bid of **3C** by responder is now Checkback Stayman. (Even if 1C was the opening bid, 3C is still Checkback Stayman.) This is a partnership agreement however.

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 H

2 NT - 3 C

Responses to 3C are as follows:

- 3D says: I do not have 3 card support for your major suit (Hearts) nor do I have 4 cards in the other major .
- 3H says: I have 3 card support for your Heart suit but I do NOT have 4 spades.
- 3S says: I have a 4 card Spade suit but I do not have 3 card support for your H suit.
- 3 NT says: I have both 3 card support for Hearts and also a four card S suit.

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

1 D - 1 S

2 NT - 3 C

Responses to 3C are as follows:

- 3D says: I do not have 3 card support for your major suit (Spades) nor do I have 4 cards in the other major (Hearts).
- 3S says: I have 3 card support for your S suit but I do NOT have four hearts.
- 3H says: I have a 4 card H suit but do not have 3 card support for your Spade suit.
- 3 NT says: I have both 3 card support for Spades and also a four card Heart 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:

S K543
H KQ87
D Q76
C 42

S AQ76
H J106
D AK83
C A5

South opens

S	N
1D	1H
2NT	3C*
3NT	4S

(*3C is Checkback Stayman)

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 Club, then South would never be able to make 3NT. He would have to drive out the Heart Ace and then EW would be able to cash 4C tricks quickly. On the other hand, 4S is an easy contract to make.

Let's look at one more example:

S AQ742
H 32
D 765
C Q43

S K65
H AQ7
D Q32
C AKJ2

S	N
1C	1S
2NT	3C*
3S	4S

(*3C is Checkback Stayman)

North can easily make 4S but 3NT by South is doomed on a Diamond 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.