

TEST YOUR DEFENCE

	S AQJ6	
	H AQJ10	
	D 1095	
	C Q2	
S 7		S 853
H 532		H 8764
D AQ8		D J7642
C AKJ1043		C 9
	S K10942	
	H K9	
	D K3	
	C 8765	

W	N	E	S
1C	Dbf	P	2S
3C	4S	All pass	

Opening lead C Ace.

Pretend you are sitting East. Partner (West) leads C Ace . Then partner leads C K. East: Count points around the table. Dummy (North) has 16 HCP. You (East) have 1 point only. Partner (West) bid TWICE even though you had nothing to say. South jumped to 2S so has more than 8 pts. Let's say 9. That leaves West with 14-15 pts and good Clubs.

What will you (East) play at trick 2 on West's C K ?
DO YOUR NECK EXERCISES. 90 degrees to the RIGHT.

Where are some more tricks coming from. Odds are that West does not also have D Ace & King. She does not wish to stay on lead. She needs YOU on lead to lead a D through declarer.

You must ruff the second C (C King) and lead a D. Partner scores the D Ace and D Q. It is hard to trump your partner's good trick. It only hurts for a little while!!

Hand by Bill Root. Commentary by Barbara

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 one of a major response with the opening bidder then jumping to 2 NT.

1 D - 1 H
2 NT - 3 C 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 H
2 NT - 3 C

Responses to 3C are as follows:

3D says: I do not have 3 card support for your major suit (H) nor do I have 4 cards in the other major (Spades).

3H says: I have 3 card support for your H suit but I do NOT have 4 Spades.

3S says: I have a 4 card S suit but do not have 3 card support for your H suit.

3 NT says: I have both 3 card support for H 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 3 C are as follows:

3D says: I do not have 3 card support for your major suit (S)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 4 Hearts.

3H says: I have a 4 card H suit but do not have 3 card support for your S suit.

3 NT says: I have both 3 card support for S and also a four card H 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:

North
S K543
H KQ87
D Q76
C 42

South
S AQ76
H J106
D AK83
C A5

South opens

S	N
1D	1H
2NT	3C * (Checkback Stayman)
3NT(both)	4S

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

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 * (Checkback Stayman)
3S	4S

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.

There are different versions of this convention, so you will have to agree with partner before playing this.

RULE OF ELEVEN

	S AQ102
	H AKJ
	D A1054
	C J3
S 7 led	
	S 853
	H Q109
	D 72
	C A6542
N	S
1 D	1NT
3NT	

What will you as declarer play at trick one from dummy?

This is a situation where you must use the Rule of Eleven. You as declarer must subtract the digit of the card led from the number 11. Answer is 4. This tells you that there are four cards in the remaining three hands (North, East & South) that can beat the 7. Can you see (in North and SOUTH hands) four cards that can beat the 7? YES. Thus East cannot have any cards that can beat the 7. Thus you have to duck the 7 in dummy (play the 2 from dummy) and win the 8 in declarer's hand.

You can now successfully finesse the rest of the Spade suit, knowing that East has no Spades higher than the 7.

PLAN THE PLAY by EDDIE KANTAR

Dlr: North

Vul: E-W

North
S. K3
H. AKQ2
D. AK5
C. A642

West
S. 8654
H. J9
D. Q10
C. KJ1095

East
S. Q972
H. 10864
D. J932
C. Q

South
S. AJ10
H. 765
D. 8764
C. 873

North	East	South	West
2C	Pass	2D	Pass
2NT	Pass	3NT	All Pass

Opening lead: S2

North opens 2C and rebids 2NT to show 22-24 HCP, balanced. Many play a 2D response to a strong 2C opening as 'waiting'. Waiting to hear what partner has in mind. When North bids 2NT, South responds as if North has opened 2NT keeping in mind that North has 22-24 HCP.

Lead Commentary: As East, keeping in mind that South did not use Stayman, the inference is that dummy does not have a four card major. Therefore, it is normal to lead from the stronger major: spades.

Defensive Commentary: As West, assuming the S10 (or SJ) is played from dummy, play the S6, standard count. The idea is this: When you can't top dummy's card (the queen or lower) at least tell partner how many small cards you have. With four cards (an even number) play second highest if you can afford to. If you can't, play the third highest card. Just don't play your lowest card! If you do, you will be telling partner you have an odd number of cards. If anything goes wrong after that, it will be on your head!

Play Commentary: As North, there are many reasons to take the first trick with the SK retaining the option of leading low to the jack. The lead of a low card strongly suggests an honor which must be the queen. Furthermore, if West had the SQ, it would have been played at trick one as West would think East had the king from the lead of a low card. As North, you may need three spade tricks. If you win the first spade with the ten, the suit is blocked and you may have a hard (read-impossible) time getting to dummy's ace. As it happens, both diamonds and hearts fail to break 3-3, so you need three spades tricks, the reason why winning the first trick with the king was crucial.

When a low card is led in an unbid suit against notrump, both declarer and third hand assume that the opening leader has at least one honor card in the suit and play accordingly. When giving 'standard' count, low-high shows an odd number, high-low, an even number.