

Garbage Stayman finds the Best Contract

**Board 2**  
East Deals  
N-S Vul

♠ 8 5 3 2	♠ Q 10	♠ A K 6			
♥ 8 7 3 2	♥ A J 10 5	♥ K Q 4			
♦ 9 8 6 3	♦ K 7 5	♦ A J 10 4			
♣ K	♣ Q J 8 7	♣ 5 4 3			
	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px; height: 40px; margin: 0 auto;"> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">N</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W     E</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">S</td></tr> </table>	N	W     E	S	
N					
W     E					
S					
	♠ J 9 7 4				
	♥ 9 6				
	♦ Q 2				
	♣ A 10 9 6 2				

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
2 ♣	Pass	1 NT	Pass
		2 ♦	All pass

**Auction Commentary:** West has a great hand for Garbage Stayman: ask partner to bid using Stayman. Partner won't know what you're up to. Remember that anyone who limits their hand is never in charge. A 1 NT opener has indeed limited their hand, so responder is in control. And with this hand, responder knows that any suit contract -- (except ♣s!) -- would be a better place to play than 1 NT. So West plans to pass whatever East answers, and that will be the contract.

**Lead Commentary:** The defenders know this is Garbage Stayman, and that ♣s are short in dummy, so South could choose to lead the A♣. (Or lead 4♠, or - not optimal - 9♥.)

**Planning the Play:** Counting losers, East sees one ♠ loser, 1 or 2 ♥ losers (depending on where the A♥ is), only 1 ♣ if he can ruff 2 ♣s in dummy, and if the ♦ honors behave there will be just one ♦ loser. Play the ♥s from the dummy, leading toward the ♥ KQ. If it works the first time, then you know the ♥ A is with North, so go to the dummy again and lead another ♥. (And getting to that dummy can only be done by ruffing ♣s!)

**Defense:** South counts 7 HCP in his own hand, and 3 HCP in the dummy. Declarer has 15-17, so that leaves at least 13-15 HCP in the North, and it will be difficult for Declarer to get to Dummy to finesse partner too many times!

**Takeaway:** Garbage Stayman gets to the BEST CONTRACT.

**Board 7**  
 South Deals  
 Both Vul

Rebid the Major to invite to game

<p>♠ 7 6 5          ♥ A 10          ♦ A 8 7 4 3          ♣ 9 7 2</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 60px; height: 60px; margin: auto;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">N</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">E</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">S</td><td></td></tr> </table>		N		W		E		S		<p>♠ A Q 9 8 4 3          ♥ 6 2          ♦ 10 9          ♣ 8 6 4</p>	<p>♠ J 10          ♥ 9 8 7 5 4          ♦ K Q J          ♣ Q 5 3</p>
	N											
W		E										
	S											

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			

**Auction Commentary:** As soon as South opens 1 NT, North immediately knows that the contract belongs in ♠s -- partner has at least 2 pieces in each suit.

- There are two ways to invite to game after a 1 NT opener:
- make the transfer, and then rebid 2 NT to show 8-9 points
  - make the transfer, and then rebid 3 of the major to show 8-9 points

The difference is that rebidding the major as the invitation also shows the 6th piece of trump, and sets the strain. (So when you are responder, don't make a transfer and then rebid the suit unless you have at least 6 pieces.)

Some partnerships would use a preemptive 4♥ Texas Transfer to place the contract with this hand, and others would agree that they'd like a stronger hand to use Texas.

**Lead Commentary:** Tough choice - either ♣ or a trump. Don't touch the suits with the A's. Save those to capture the K's, which we surmise are in the 1 NT hand.

**Planning the Play:** North is the master hand. (Remember that the master hand is usually the one with the long trumps.) Counting losers from the position of the North: one ♥ loser, two ♦s, and a ♣. Probably no trump losers, but still too many.

If they lead a ♣ on opening lead, your troubles will vanish. You'll eliminate the ♣ loser, and if East pops up with the ♣ Q, you will have an extra ♣ after you pull trumps to pitch a ♦. And if they don't lead a ♣, you can pitch your losing ♣ on a top ♥ later, after forcing out the ♥ A.

**Takeaway:** Rebidding the major after you've transferred partner into it promises extra length in trumps. If you transfer with 5 pieces, and then rebid the suit, partner might accept your invitation holding only 2 pieces. And a 7-card fit makes it more difficult to handle a bad break in trumps. If partner goes down because of it, you'll be buying lunch next. :)

The Best Contract using Jacoby Transfers

**Board 9**  
North Deals  
E-W Vul

♠ 6 5 3 2	N W     E S	♠ K 10 7 4
♥ K 7 3		♥ 10 4
♦ A 10 8 6		♦ 7 4 2
♣ A 2		♣ J 8 7 4

  

♠ A Q 8
♥ Q J 9 6 2
♦ 9 5 3
♣ 10 6

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
	1 NT	Pass	2 ♦
Dbl	2 ♥	Pass	2 NT
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

**Auction Commentary:** When South makes the transfer bid of 2 ♦, West takes the opportunity to double the bid for lead direction. Whenever one of us doubles an artificial bid, it asks partner to lead that artificial suit. NOTE - North here would ONLY accept the transfer after an intervening bid if North had 3+ pieces in ♥s. After South shows invitational values by rebidding 2 NT, North can go to game in their major suit fit.

**Lead Commentary:** If West doubles the 2 ♦ bid by partner, East should lead his top ♦ 7.

**Planning the Play:** Counting losers from the position of South, the master hand, North finds a potential ♠ loser and a potential ♥ loser (depending on the disposition of their respective Kings). There is also a ♣ loser and a ♦ loser. The right way to play the ♣ suit will be to lead from the dummy toward the KQ♣... and that is also where the trump suit should start.

Getting to the dummy twice can occur with the ♠ suit. This contract should make 5 ♥, losing only the two minor suit Aces.

**Takeaway:** A Jacoby Transfer gets to the BEST CONTRACT.

Texas Transfers find the Best Contract

**Board 12**  
West Deals  
N-S Vul

♠ A 5 4	♠ K Q 10 2	♠ 8 7 6
♥ 8 4	♥ A K	♥ 10 7 6
♦ J 6 5 4	♦ A 10 7 3	♦ 9 8
♣ Q J 10 6	♣ 7 5 4	♣ A K 9 8 2

N
W     E
S

♠ J 9 3
♥ Q J 9 5 3 2
♦ K Q 2
♣ 3

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	1 NT	Pass	4 ♦
Pass	4 ♥	All pass	

**Auction Commentary:** With that singleton ♣, and knowing that this will be a trump contract, South makes a Texas Transfer directly to game.

**Lead Commentary:** A♣ from AK♣

**Planning the Play:** From the position of the master hand (South), there is 1 ♣ loser and one ♠ loser. Ruff the second ♣ trick, pull trumps by traveling to hand with the ♦ K for the third trump trick. Force out the ♠ A and claim :)

**Takeaway:** Use all the information available to get to the BEST CONTRACT.