

1. The auction has gone 1C Dbl. P 1S What do you do with the following hand?
P ?

AKQ83
K98
AJ5
73

2. The auction has gone 1D 1S P. What do you bid with the following hand?

7
J82
Q72
K109543

3. What do you bid in first seat with the following hand?

AQ
K53
K109432
A10

4. What do you bid after your left hand opponent bids one club with the following hand?

KQ1097
542
K83
J2

5. What do you bid after your left hand opponent bids one club with the following hand?

K9875
K74
J42
Q10

6. What do you bid after your left hand opponent bids one club with the following hand?

8
65432
AQ32
AK4

7. What do you bid after your left hand opponent bids one diamond with the following hand?

**82
AQ107
107654
AQ**

8. What do you bid after your left hand opponent bids one diamond with the following hand?

**KQJ9
A2
43
J8743**

9. What do you bid after your left hand opponent bids one heart with the following hand?

**A2
108654
A2
KQJ8**

Answers and Reasoning

1. **Bid 2 spades, A doubler should never leap to any contract he can not reasonably expect to make in his own hand. Unless the responder to a double has made a bid that shows some strength, the doubler need not bid again with a hand that ranges from 13 to 15 points. To take further action bids the same values twice. A raise of the response to the two level shows at least 16 points. A raise of the response to the three level shows at least 19 points. A raise of the response to the four level shows at least 22 points.**

J1062 Partner's hand.

732

863

Q65

2. **Pass. Do not rescue a partner who has not been doubled. There is no guarantee you are improving the contract.**

KQJ983 Partner's hand

A54

963

2

3. **Bid 1NT. Wit a hand that has 15 to 17 high card points and with stoppers in every suit bid 1NT. Never bid 1NT with a six card major suit. Whenever possible it is advantageous to describe your hand by bidding no trump. With a six card minor suit you will lean towards a 3 no trump contract rather than 5 diamonds whenever possible.**
4. **Bid 1 spade. Try to make an overcall as soon as it is possible to do so. At the very least it takes away significant room from the opponents. The quality of the spade suit keeps you out of major trouble. Remember that one of the main reasons to overcall is to obstruct the opponents and make it difficult to handle their auction. So in close situations tend to overcall when it takes up a lot of room for the opponents. Examples: Bid 1 spade over 1 club, bid 2 clubs over 1 diamond.**
5. **Pass. This hand is beginning to stretch things a bit. I might bid 1 spade on the theory it makes things hard for the opponents but I could easily go down for a substantial number here.**
6. **One heart. This bid gives a good chance to find an eight card fit. If we are defending it may cost a trick if partner leads an honor but partner may not end up on lead. Without support partner may bid the other suits and will be**

delighted with our hand. Finally, if your opponents declare the hand they may take all the finesses wrong.

7. Bid one heart. Since both left hand opponent and partner have to be short in diamonds it is likely partner may have heart support. Therefore your length in diamonds is actually an asset. Partner may have a hand such as

A9764

J83

3

7652

and raise to two hearts. This may buy the contract and will make between seven and nine tricks. Whenever you overcall on four card suits be sure the quality of the suit is high.

8. Bid 1 spade. This is a different hand than the last. Here you only have the hope that partner may have support for your suit while on hand seven we had a greater expectation that partner would have trumps and good ruffing value in diamonds.

9. Pass. Overcalling at the two level requires a five card suit.

Creeping STAYMAN

Partner opens 1 no trump and you hold the following hand.

8754 Q964 3 8742

Do you want to play this hand in 1 No trump or a suit contract?

After the partnership has decided to adopt Jacoby Transfers to a minimum of at least a 5-card suit even with weak holdings, the inclusion of Creeping Stayman increases the possibilities of the responder, holding weak values, of rebidding 2 Hearts and/or 2 Spades as two additional "escape routes" for other weak distributional holdings. Under certain circumstances the responder, even with a weak holding, may decide that a game contract is possible.

The following illustrations assist in understanding this concept.

Opener	Responder	
♠ AQ3	♠ 10643	
♥ KJ9	♥ A543	
♦ AQ106	♦ 8752	
♣ J109	♣ 6	
1 NT	2 ♣	Stayman
2 ♦	Pass	Garbage Stayman

Since the partnership may have a better chance in making a suit contract, the responder employs the Stayman convention by bidding 2 Clubs and then passes whatever the opener rebids.

However, since such a holding by the responder limits his possibilities of responding, the concept has been altered to bid even on holdings such as a distribution of 4-4-1-4 or even 4-4-0-5 as in the following examples

:

Responder	Responder
♠ 10643	♠ 10643
♥ A543	♥ A543
♦ 7	♦
♣ 8652	♣ 87652

Holding either of the above the responder would bid the 2 ♣ Stayman inquiry response to a 1 No Trump opening by the partner. If the No Trump bidder rebids Hearts or Spades, then the responder simply passes. However, there must be a possibility for the responder to show even a 4-card Major suit if the No Trump bidder rebids 2 Diamonds. This is the concept behind Crawling or Creeping Stayman. This concept permits the partnership to escape into a suit contract with at least a 7-card fit.

Once the No Trump bidder responds with 2 ♦, then the responder rebids 2 ♥. The No Trump bidder will pass the 2 ♥ rebid with a 3-card Heart suit. But if the No Trump bidder has only a 2-card Heart suit and a 3-card Spade suit, then the No Trump bidder will correct by rebidding 2 ♠. However, in the rare case that the No Trump bidder has two Major suit doubletons, then the No Trump bidder should rebid 2 No Trump, which the responder must then correct to 3 ♣.

Therefore, it is a partnership agreement that the responder has four cards in both Major suits when employing the Crawling Stayman conventional method.