Lesson: Practise the Stayman Convention

Print off and fold down the middle.

1	West	North 1NT	East Pass	South ?	 ▲ K853 ♥ KJ10 ◆ Q2 ♣ AJ52 	2♣ 12-14 HCP, at least one 4 card major and a balanced hand. An ideal Stayman hand.
2	West	North 1NT	East Pass	South ?	 ▲ QJ98 ♥ K876 ◆ KJ5 ♣ 92 	Pass You have only 10 HCP, not enough for game even if partner has a maximum 14 HCP. You do not have a 5 card suit so cannot bid a suit. Your safest option is to pass.
3	West	North 1NT	East Pass	South ?	 ▲ J974 ♥ QJ85 • - ♣ K8543 	 Pass You don't want to play in 1NT but you have no suitable bid. If you bid Stayman and partner responds 2 ◆ then you will have to bid 2 ♥ or 2 ▲. Partner may only have two cards in our suit. You must pass!!! This is the one downside of Stayman, losing the ability to make a 2 level takeout into clubs, but it's well worth it for all the great benefits that Stayman brings to your game.
4	West Pass	North	East Pass	South 1NT ?	 ▲ A86 ♥ KQ42 ◆ Q5 ♣ J1052 	2♥ Partner is using Stayman to ask if you have a 4- card major. You therefore show your 4 card heart suit
5	West Pass	North	East Pass	South 1NT ?	 ▲ A97 ♥ KJ4 ♦ K5 ♣ J10652 	2 ◆ Partner is using Stayman to ask if you have a 4- card major. Your bid of 2 ◆ is an artificial bid, denying a 4 card major. It says nothing about your diamonds.
6	West Pass	North 1NT 2♦	East Pass Pass	South 2 ♣ ?	 ♣ 82 ♥ KJ64 ♦ K9763 ♣ A4 	2NT With 11 HCP You were just strong enough to bid Stayman, hoping to find a heart fit. After partner's 2 ◆ denial of a 4 card major you invite game in 3NT by bidding 2NT. If partner is maximum (14 HCP) she will bid 3NT, otherwise she will pass. (If you had 13 HCP you would have bid 3NT).
7	West Pass	North	East Pass	South 1NT ?	 ▲ AK42 ♥ 9863 ◆ A5 ♣ K103 	2♥ Partner is using Stayman to ask if you have a 4- card major. You have both majors so you show your hearts first, regardless of where your points lie. If partner responds 2NT (showing 11-12 HCP and denying four hearts) then he must have four spades, otherwise why bid Stayman? You have game values even if partner has just 11 HCP so you would then bid 4▲.

8	West Pass	North 1NT 2♥	East Pass Pass	South 2.4 ?	 ▲ J876 ♥ Q654 ◆ AJ ♣ K83 	3♥ You have a heart fit and 11 HCP, not enough to bid 4♥ because partner may have only 12 HCP. Your 3♥ bid is agreeing hearts as trumps and inviting partner to bid 4♥ if he has a maximum 14 HCP, otherwise pass.
9	West	North 1NT	East Pass	South ?	 ▲ K876 ♥ Q65 ◆ AJ8 ♣ K83 	3NT You have 13 HCP and four spades but you have a 'pancake' hand, i.e. a flat 4-3-3-3 shape, so you should not bid Stayman looking for an 8 card spade fit. You have no shortage so will not be able produce any extra tricks by ruffing. You will make the same number of tricks in 3NT as in 4 and will require one trick fewer to make a game contract.
10	West	North 1NT	East Pass	South ?	 ▲ Q8763 ♥ J652 ◆ 4 ♣ 752 	2♣ With 5-4 in the majors you can use Stayman even with a weak hand. If partner responds 2♥ or 2♠ then you will pass. If partner responds 2♦ you will sign off in 2♠ and partner must pass. This sequence is known as 'Weak Stayman'.
11	West	North 1NT	East Pass	South ?	 ▲ Q9 ♥ J65 ◆ 4 ♣ Q965432 	2. Your clubs are unlikely to produce more than one trick in No Trumps but will produce lots of tricks as trumps. 2. here is 'Phony Stayman'. Partner will respond as if you were bidding normal Stayman but when you rebid 3. partner will realise that you are making a weak takeout into clubs and will pass. You need a weak hand (less than 7 points) and 6+ clubs to make this bid, otherwise pass.*
12	West	North 1NT	East Pass	South ?	 ♦ 9752 ♥ Q65 ♦ J9432 ♣ 7 	2* This is "Garbage Stayman", a rare form of weak takeout made when responder is weak and is happy to pass any response from partner, such as here, where a 7+ card fit is almost guaranteed. Suitable hands have five diamonds and at least three cards in each major

* Ref Q.11 above., if playing Transfers (Lesson 12) as part of your system then you would not use Phoney Stayman. You would bid 2♠, asking partner to bid 3♣. You would then pass if your long minor is clubs, or convert to 3♦ if your long minor is diamonds.