

RANGE STAYMAN

When the opponents open the bidding with either a major or a minor with the next two players passing, oftentimes it is right to balance. In fact, balancing with a notrump is very often also the right thing to do.

Let's clarify the difference to balance with 1NT when opener bids a major versus a minor. There really should be two different ranges based on what was opened. I suggest the following:

	(1m)	P	(P)	1NT	= 11-14 HCP
and	(!M)	P	(P)	1NT	= 11-16 HCP

This system works very well when your partnership is playing "Range Stayman." Range Stayman essentially not only asks partner if they have a major suit but also to define the high-card "range" of your hand. Here it is in action:

Scenario One

(1♠)	P	(P)	1NT	
(P)	2♣	(P)	2♦	- 11 or 12 with no four-card major
			2♥	- 11 or 12 with our hearts

Bidding continues or does not based on this information.

Scenario Two

(1♠)	P	(P)	1NT	
(P)	2♣	(P)	2NT	- 13 or 14 HCP and may have a four-card major
(P)	3♣*	(P)	3♥	- 13 or 14 HCP with four hearts
			3NT	- 13 or 14 HCP with no four-card major

*Re-Stayman

Bidding continues or does not based on this information.

Scenario Three

(1♠)	P	(P)	1NT	
(P)	2♣	(P)	3♦	- 15 or 16 with no four-card major
			3♥	- 15 or 16 with four hearts

Bidding continues or does not based on this information.

Holding 17-18 HCP in the balancing seat, double and bid notrump as cheaply as possible. With 19-21 HCP you should balance with 2N – this is *not* an unusual notrump situation.