vulnerable.

How to respond to 1NT with both majors in a weak hand. West opens 1NT, North passes, East holds:

♦ J9842

♥ A10762

4 9

% 63

East's bid? To transfer to a major and next bid a new suit creates a game forcing auction. East is not strong enough to force to game so if they transfer to hearts they must pass 2♥. If East bids Stayman and West responds 2♦, a rebid of 2♥ shows a weak hand with both majors and asks West to choose a major. East's best plan is to bid 2♣ Stayman.

West does rebid 2♦, denying four cards in a major, so East rebids 2♥ showing a weak hand with length in both major suits. As West holds:

A AQ5

♥ 84

♦ AI653

♣ AJ7

with more spades than hearts West corrects $2\heartsuit$ to $2\clubsuit$ which becomes the final contract. By using Stayman and next rebidding $2\heartsuit$, East was able to get West to choose their best major. If West had better hearts than spades they would pass $2\heartsuit$.

This special use of Stayman is part of our standard bidding system. To help remember, if East had a good hand with hearts they would transfer and keep bidding, if East's only long suit was hearts they would transfer and then pass. So if East, bids 2♣ and rebids 2♥ (over 2♦) they must have a second suit, and that suit must be spades. It has to be spades because over 2♣, West will bid 2♠ with four spades which East must pass if weak.

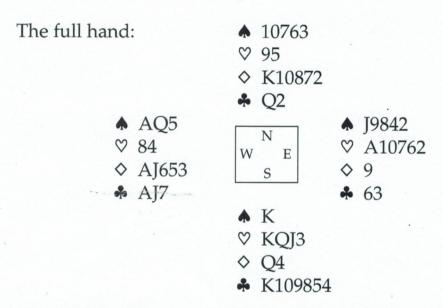
If West after opening 1NT had rebid 2♥ or 2♠ over East's 2♣ Stayman, with nine trumps East would raise the major to the three level. East is worth a game invitation if a nine-card trump fit is uncovered – "extra trumps = win extra tricks".

If South doubles East's 2. (Stayman) what does the double mean? It shows a hand that would have overcalled 2. All doubles by South show length and strength in the suit bid by East, when the bid suit is conventional.

North to lead against West's 2♠ from:

♠ 10763♡ 95♦ K10872♠ O2

Before leading always review the auction, as South doubled 2* saying they have a hand that would have overcalled 2*. North should lead partner's suit, and choose *Q "top of a doubleton". However the club Norths missed South's helpful double and led \$7.



Club Results: The most successful Wests won $\diamond A$ and ducked a heart to South (key play), they won South's return and led to $\heartsuit A$. Then $\spadesuit 2$, $\spadesuit K$ (surely a singleton), won by $\spadesuit A$. Ruffed $\diamond 3$ with $\spadesuit 4$, ruffed $\heartsuit 6$ with $\spadesuit Q$, ruffed $\diamondsuit 5$ with $\spadesuit 8$, and led $\heartsuit 7$ ruffed with $\spadesuit 5$ and overruffed. These Wests finished with 10 tricks and a top.

Summary:

If you Stayman and rebid 2♥ after the 1NT opener rebids 2♦ (denying a four-card major), this shows a weak hand with both majors. The 1NT opener with better hearts than spades passes 2♥ otherwise they correct to 2♠. When an opponent Staymans or transfers after a 1NT opening bid, to double their artificial suit bid shows length and strength in the actual suit bid. For example: if they bid 2♦ as a transfer to hearts, a double of 2♦ shows length and strength in diamonds.