

# Forcing Raise After Stayman (Following a 1NT Opening Bid)

The question that must be answered by a partnership is when is 4NT an initiation of an Ace Asking (1430) process and when is 4NT a Quantitative Slam Invitation?

If you use the Forcing Raise method to confirm a trump suit after Stayman then you have expanded the types of hands you can describe.

With this hand and the following bidding:

W	N	E	S
	1NT	P	2♣
P	2♥	P	?

♠ AQ109  
♥ K10  
♦ A94  
♣ K864

How do you pursue slam? If you use Forcing Raises then you would use 4NT as a Quantitative Slam Invitation – describing a hand with 16-17 HCP, a 4-card Spade suit and a lack of support for Hearts. Opener can pass, bid 6♠ or bid 6NT.

What are Forcing Raises? Simply bid the other Major at a Game Forcing level after Stayman. This method establishes the trump suit so that 4NT is known to be Ace Asking (1430).

## Forcing Raises

Forcing Raise following a Heart Response to 1NT and Stayman

W	N	E	S
	1NT	P	2♣
P	2♥	P	3♠
P	4♥	P	4NT

♠ K10  
♥ AQ109  
♦ A94  
♣ K864

## Forcing Raises

Forcing Raise following a Spade Response to 1NT and Stayman

W	N	E	S
	1NT	P	2♣
P	2♠	P	3♥
P	4♠	P	4NT

♠	AQ109
♥	K10
♦	A94
♣	K864

Using the Forcing Raise mechanism, Responder's 4NT is Ace Asking (1430) based upon Hearts as trump suit.

## Forcing Raise After Stayman (Following a 2NT Opening Bid)

The Forcing Raise mechanism over 2NT is in direct conflict with Puppet Stayman. If you use Puppet Stayman, you cannot use Forcing Raises, nor can you use Smolen over a 2NT opening bid.

Again, simply bid the other Major after Stayman. This method establishes the trump suit so that 4NT is known to be Ace Asking (1430).

W	N	E	S
	2NT	P	3♣
P	3♥	P	3♠
P	4♥	P	4NT

Using the Forcing Raise mechanism, Responder's 4NT is Ace Asking (1430) based upon Hearts as trump suit.