EBED Silver Lesson 1 - Stayman

Board 1
North Deals
None Vul

	♠ A J 10 ♥ A Q 2 ♦ J 6 5 3 ♣ K 4 2	
♠ K 6 5 ♥ J 9 ♦ Q 7 4 2 ♣ 8 7 5 3	N W E S	♠ Q 7 3 ♥ 10 8 6 4 ♦ K 10 ♣ Q J 10 9
15 **6 8** **11**	♠ 9 8 4 2 ♥ K 7 5 3 ♦ A 9 8 ♣ A 6	

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♦	Pass	3 NT
All pass			

3 NT by North
Lead: ♣ Q

North opens 1 NT, showing 15-17 HCP and a balanced Hand. South bids 2 ♣, Stayman, asking whether North has a four-card major. North's 2 ♦ denies one. South has enough points to bid game in 3 NT.

Declarer wins the lead in dummy and immediately plays on spades. Declarer is hoping that at least one of the spade honours will be with West. There is a 75% chance that this will be so. When the first spade finesse loses, declarer should return to dummy and repeat the finesse.

As it happens, the spade suit also breaks 3-3 which will enable ten tricks to be made.

Play theme: double finesses

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Board 2
East Deals
N-S Vul

	♠ Q J 10 ♥ Q 7 ♦ 8 7 5 2 ♣ Q 9 8 4	
♠ K 4 3 ♥ A J 6 5 ♦ A K J ♣ 7 5 2	N W E S	♠ 9 7 6 ♥ 10 9 8 4 ♦ Q 10 9 4 ♣ A K
7 **16 9** **8**	♠ A 8 5 2 ♥ K 3 2 ♦ 6 3 ♣ J 10 6 3	

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
		Pass	Pass
1 NT	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 ♥	All pass		

4 ♥ by West
Lead: ♠ Q

With 8+ points and a four-card major, East uses Stayman. West responds 2 ♥, and raises to game after East invites.

On the ♠ Q lead, declarer has two spade losers, so must endeavour to only lose one heart. This can be achieved by crossing to dummy and taking the double finesse in trumps, hoping that South has at least one of the heart honours.

Board 3

South Deals
E-W Vul

	♠ A 10 9 8 ♥ A Q 2 ♦ 10 9 5 4 ♣ 5 3	
♠ K 4 ♥ 8 7 6 5 4 ♦ K Q J ♣ J 8 7	N W E S	♠ Q 5 3 ♥ 10 ♦ 8 7 6 ♣ Q 10 9 6 4 2
10 **10 4** **16**	♠ J 7 6 2 ♥ K J 9 3 ♦ A 3 2 ♣ A K	

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥
Pass	3 NT	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			

4 ♠ by South
Lead: ♦ K

With both four-card majors, South shows the heart suit first, which promises at least four cards in that suit but does not deny four spades. North has the values for game and can bid 3 NT. South trusts that partner bid Stayman on a four-card major, and since hearts were not supported, North must have four spades.

West leads the ♦ K. South must avoid losing two spades by taking the double finesse in trumps.

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Board 4

West Deals
Both Vul

	♠ Q 5 4 3 ♥ 6 5 ♦ K 10 8 ♣ A Q 7 2	
♠ 10 9 2 ♥ A Q 7 2 ♦ 6 5 3 2 ♣ 10 6	N W E S	♠ A J 8 ♥ K J 4 3 ♦ A J 4 ♣ J 5 4
11 **6 15** **8**	♠ K 7 6 ♥ 10 9 8 ♦ Q 9 7 ♣ K 9 8 3	

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
Pass	Pass	1 NT	Pass
Pass	Pass		

1 NT by East
Lead: ♥ 10

With only six points, West should not use Stayman - it is clear to pass.

On the lead of the ♥ 10, West should win in dummy and run the ♠ 10. As North has at least one spade honour, declarer will make two spades, four hearts and a diamond.

Board 5

North Deals
N-S Vul

	♠ A K J 3 ♥ A Q 3 ♦ 4 3 ♣ J 9 5 2	
♠ 5 4 2 ♥ 6 5 4 2 ♦ A 9 8 6 5 ♣ 7	N W E S	♠ 8 6 ♥ J 10 7 ♦ Q J 10 2 ♣ K Q 6 3
15 **4 9** **12**	♠ Q 10 9 7 ♥ K 9 8 ♦ K 7 ♣ A 10 8 4	

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
	1 NT	Pass	2 ♣
Pass	2 ♠	Pass	4 ♠
All pass			

4 ♠ by North
Lead: ♦ Q

With at least 8 points and a four-card major, South uses Stayman. North bids 2 ♠, showing at least four of the suit and denying four hearts. South has enough to bid game.

The first two diamond tricks are lost. After drawing trumps, declarer should take the double club finesse to avoid losing two tricks in the suit. It is making as a long as one club honour is right. This time, both the honours are sitting under the ace.

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Board 6

East Deals
E-W Vul

	♠ 8 4 ♥ 7 6 ♦ J 9 5 4 ♣ Q 8 6 4 3	
♠ J 10 7 ♥ A 10 3 2 ♦ A 6 2 ♣ 10 9 5	N W E S	♠ A K Q 5 ♥ J 9 8 5 ♦ K Q 3 ♣ J 7
3 **9 16** **12**	♠ 9 6 3 2 ♥ K Q 4 ♦ 10 8 7 ♣ A K 2	

West	*North*	*East*	*South*
		1 NT	Pass
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♥	Pass
3 ♥	Pass	4 ♥	All pass

4 ♥ by East
Lead: ♣ A

With at least 8 points and a four-card major, West uses Stayman. East bids 2 ♥ to show a 4+ suit. This does not deny four spades. West invites game and East accepts.

After losing two clubs, declarer must take the double trump finesse to avoid losing two heart tricks.