

Book Reviews - Short Takes

F*ive-Card Major Stayman* by Ron Klinger (Cassell publishers, London, distributed in this country by Trafalgar Square of North Pomfret, Vermont) is a handy short book on a limited topic.

In the olden days it was considered verboten to open one (or two) notrump with a five card major, but nowadays many players do so.

If you and your partner never do, then you don't need this convention.

Regular Stayman (bidding two clubs over the one notrump opener or three clubs over two notrump) will suffice to locate any four-four major fits.

But if you open notrump with a five card major you need a system to locate not just the four-four fits but also the five-three fits.

The book is comprehensive and includes tips on when you should or shouldn't open notrump with a five-card major and how to diagnose the hands where the three notrump game might still be better than the major fit.