

There are in fact many variations on the Niemeijer scheme of responding to 2NT and I give a fairly basic but very good one here.

3♣: Puppet Stayman, asks for 4 and 5 card majors, reply is as follows: -

- a) 3♦: no 5 card major, but 4♥ and/or 4♠

The 3♣ bidder then shows his major suit holding as follows: -

3♥ shows 4 ♠'s	* note 1
3♠ shows 4 ♥'s	* note 1
3NT shows no 4 card major, and is to play	* note 2
4♣ shows both majors and interest in slam	
4♦ shows both majors and no slam interest	

Note 1: These responses allow opener to be declarer.

Note 2: The 3♣ bidder may have gone this route because the direct 3NT bid is needed conventionally. Alternatively, he may have a 3 card major and a weak doubleton elsewhere and was hoping to find the 5-3 major suit fit.

- b) 3♥/♠: 5 card suit  
c) 3NT: no 4 or 5 card major

3♦: Transfer to 3♥

3♥: Transfer to 3♠

3♠: Minor suit Stayman or a transfer to 4♣ or a transfer to 3NT to describe a minor-suited hand as described in the 3♠ over 2NT document. Up to you.

3NT: shows 5 ♠'s and 4 ♥'s (there is not enough room to show this with a transfer sequence).

Note that if 2♠ were 'normal' Stayman then you could bid 3♣ followed by 3♥/♠ to show 5-4 or 4-5 in the majors after a 3♦ response, but when playing Puppet Stayman that is no longer possible. With 5 ♥'s and ♠'s you simply transfer into ♥'s and then bid 3♠ of course.

4♣: Gerber

etc.... where it's up to you what the higher bids mean, and some prefer to play 4♣ as a transfer to ♦'s.