

# **LEBENSOHL SIMPLE**

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# Opponents love to interfere!

Anti, Aspro, Asptro, Half Astro, Grano-Astro,  
Modified Astro, Becker, Bergen, Blooman,  
Brozel, Cansino, Modified Cansino, Cappelletti,  
Modified Cappelletti, Crash, DONT, Modified  
DONT, Revised DONT, Hello, Hamilton, Landy,  
Meckwell, Mohan, Ripstra, SANTA, TONTO

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# You can't tell when they are crazy!

I recently used 2  (Modified Cappelletti) over 1NT while both sides were vulnerable with

 65432  KJ975  Q93  void

# You can't tell when they are crazy!

I recently used 2 ♦ (Modified Cappelletti) over 1NT while both sides were vulnerable with

♠ 65432 ♥ KJ975 ♦ Q93 ♣ void

It pays to have a good partner!

It's great when he makes the contract!

# Why Lebensohl?

It gives you an organized way to tell partner

- A. I have forcing values
- B. I do not have forcing values
- C. I want to play a lower ranking suit but not force to game
- D. I have stoppers
- E. I do not have stoppers

# General Principles

- Suit bids at the two-level over interference to partner's 1NT opening are NOT FORCING.
- Suit bids at the three-level over interference to partner's 1NT opening are FORCING.
- Fast arrival denies stopper in opponent's suit (or implied suits).
- Slow arrival promises stopper in opponent's suit (or implied suits).

# After suit interference with 1NT

- A. Double is penalty
- B. Bid of 2 of any other suit is natural and non-forcing
- C. Bid of 3 of any other suit is natural and forcing to game
- D. Bid of interference suit (cue bid) is similar to Stayman and asks for major and denies stopper in interference suit (or implied suits)

# Interference Continued

- E. Bid of 2NT asks opener to bid 3 ♣ if possible and to pass responder's next bid
  - a. Responder's bid of 3 in lower ranking suit is natural and to play
  - b. Responder's bid of 3 in higher ranking suit is natural and invitational
  - c. Responder's cue bid is similar to Stayman asking for majors and shows stopper in interference suit (or implied suits)



# Interference Continued

- d. If responder bids 3NT over the 3 ♣ relay, it shows game-going values with a stopper
- F. Bid of 3NT shows values for game in NT without a stopper (if opener does not have stopper, he starts bidding 4-card suits up the line)
- G. Bid of 4 ♦ or 4 ♥ is Texas transfer to ♥ or ♠

# Notes

- Note that most interference is at the 2-level, but if interference is at 3-level or higher, treat 3-level suit bids by responder as forcing.
- Also, the somewhat rare 2NT overcall of 1NT opening is likely unusual and we need other tools to deal with this.

# Other Uses

- A. Lebensohl can be used after interference with partner's 1NT overcall.
- B. It can also be used after partner makes a penalty double of 1NT and right-hand opponent bids a suit.
- C. Lebensohl-like responses can be used after partner doubles a weak two bid (use 2NT to get partner to bid 3c and pass your next bid. Other 3-level suit bids become forcing for one round.

# Example 1

♠ 43   ♥ KJ   ♦ T83   ♣ QT6543

North	East	South	West
1NT	2 ♣!	?	

! Cappelletti - 1 suit

# Answer 1

Bid 2NT and expect partner to bid 3♣ if West passes. You can pass this if/when it comes to you.

Note that if 2♣ had been natural, you could have doubled for penalty

# Example 2

♠ J876   ♥ 98   ♦ 96   ♣ KQ974

North

East

South

West

1NT

2♦!

?

Pass

Cappelletti - majors

# Answer 2

Bid 2NT. West will have to go to the 3-level to compete. If not, partner will bid 3♣ and you can pass

# Example 3

♠ 97 ♥ Q98543 ♦ J763 ♣ 2

North	East	South	West
1NT	2♣!	?	

! DONT – ♣'s and higher



# Answer 3

Bid 2♥ (non-forcing). There will likely be more bidding. If you complete later, partner will know that you did not have game going values.

# Example 4

♠ AJ42   ♥ KQ92   ♦ 842   ♣ 98

North	East	South	West
1NT	2♣	?	

Natural - ♣'s

# Answer 4

Bid 3♣ (Stayman without a stopper). Partner will bid a major if he has one or 3NT with a stopper. If he cannot bid a major or 3NT, he will bid diamonds or a good 3-card major. Moysian fits can work!

# Example 5

♠ AT42   ♥ KT92   ♦ KJ8   ♣ 43

North	East	South	West
1NT	2♦	?	

Natural - ♦'s

# Answer 5

Bid 2NT. Cue bid 3♦ over partner's 3♣ relay.  
Partner will bid a major or 3NT knowing that you  
have a stopper.

**Questions?**