

SIMPLE LEBENSOHL PART TWO

The Lebensohl Convention is also used when their side opens a weak two and your side comes into the auction with a double.

If opener's partner passes, our partner's bid of 2NT is artificial and alertable. It says nothing about notrump. It requests 1NT opener bid 3♣. It is normally the start of a weak takeout to three of a suit, although if you play full Lebensohl (recommended) it also incorporates the FADS convention. Partner can also break the 2NT transfer bid with suitable hands.

Remember that we are dealing with hands in the 12+ HCP range with a shortage, so our requirements for game are slightly more than with the 15-17 notrump, but Total Points are very important.

Here are some examples:

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♠	Dbl	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣	All Pass	

Responder (South) holds ♠J96, ♥102, ♦Q4, ♣J108763

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♠	Dbl	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♠
Pass	4♥		

This time responder (South) holds ♠K106, ♥Q1082, ♦Q4, ♣AQ86, and has taken the slow road to show a game force hand with both four hearts and a spade stopper. North confirms a 4-4 fit in hearts by raising to the heart game.

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♠	Dbl	Pass	2NT*
Pass	3♦	Pass	?

This time opener (North) holds ♠K2, ♥AQ102, ♦AKJ1096, ♣J

South holds ♠J83, ♥97, ♦Q87, ♣Q10987, and was intending to pass 3♣. When North shows a hand with extras and a long diamond suit, she realises her hand has some value and tries for 3NT with a 3♠ bid, which North accepts.

When responder to the doubler has 8-11 HCP, he makes a free bid of his suit. Going through the 2NT – 3♣ transfer normally shows a hand of 0-7 HCP. With a stronger hand, the options of a cuebid in opener's suit follow the three routes to game:

1. 3 of the suit = game values FADS, Stayman (no stopper in their suit).
2. 2NT: 3♣: 3 of their suit, Stayman (stopper in their suit).
3. 3NT = game values, FADS, no other major, no stopper.

Example 1:

	♠ 10 7 2 ♥ 5 3 ♦ J 9 8 ♣ K 9 7 4		
	♠ Q ♥ A Q 8 2 ♦ A K 7 6 5 ♣ J 5 3		♠ J 9 8 ♥ K J 10 6 ♦ Q 4 3 2 ♣ A 10 2
		♠ A K 6 5 4 3 ♥ 9 7 4 ♦ 10 ♣ Q 8 6	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
Dbl 4♥	Pass All Pass	3♥	2♠ Pass

East bids a non-forcing 3♥, showing 8-10 (11) HCP. Without Lebensohl, West would be guessing whether to go on over 3♥ or not.

Example 2:

		♠ A 10 7 ♥ --- ♦ K Q J 10 8 ♣ K Q J 10 9	
	♠ 8 6 2 ♥ A Q J 10 8 4 ♦ 7 2 ♣ 7 5		♠ J 9 5 4 3 ♥ K 7 3 ♦ 6 5 3 ♣ 4 3
		♠ K Q ♥ 9 6 5 2 ♦ A 9 4 ♣ A 8 6 2	
WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♥ Pass Pass Pass Pass	Dbl 4♣ 4NT 5NT 7♣	Pass Pass Pass Pass All Pass	3NT* (FADS) 4♦ (Cuebid) 5♥ (2 Key Cards) 6♣

South's 3NT is an example of FADS, denying a stopper or the other major, so North bids a natural 4♣, and South cuebids ♦A. Now South shows the two aces, and the 5NT bid allows South to show ♠K as well (although he could have just bid 7♣)

QUIZ

1. You are East. What do you bid with this hand: ♠2, ♥QJ108, ♦J1093, ♣ Q1082

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1NT	2♠	?	

2. You are East. What do you bid with this hand: ♠K82, ♥QJ10, ♦K1093, ♣ K1082

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1NT	2♠	?	

3. You are East. What do you bid with this hand: ♠Q2, ♥QJ1086, ♦J1093, ♣ 82

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1NT	2♣ (DONT)	?	

4. You are South. What do you bid with this hand: ♠Q2, ♥QJ1086, ♦J1093, ♣ 82

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
2♠	Dbl	Pass	?

If you bid 2NT on the hand above, partner (North) bids 3♣. What do you bid now?

5. You are West. What do you rebid with this hand: ♠KJ82, ♥J10, ♦AK4, ♣ KQ86

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1NT	2♥	3♥	Pass
?			
