

Lebensohl (2NT)

A more difficult convention to learn but very useful against opponents who interfere over your 1NT opening and over weak two openings (by opponents).

Duplicate Lite
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Partner 1NT	Opposition 2S	You ?
♠ 8 4 2	♠ 8 4	♠ 3
♥ Q J 4 5 3 2	♥ J 4 5 3	♥ KQ1043
♦ 6 7	♦ A 6 7	♦ AJ2
♣ Q 7	♣ Q 7 3 2	♣ K742

How do you describe these hands to your partner? Lebensohl will give you the tools to show the value of these hands.

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Lebensohl can be used in 3 situations:

1. Weak Two bids by the opposition
2. Interference over your 1NT opening
3. Interference over reverses (more advanced)

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Convention Defined

After your partner opens 1NT and the opposition interfere, your bid of **2NT is Lebensohl**.

2NT says nothing about notrump. It is artificial and alert-able (if you are playing Lebensohl)

Partner 1NT	Opposition 2S	You 2NT Lebensohl
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You are asking your partner to bid **3C** so you can describe your hand. **Your partner must bid 3C!**

No exceptions!

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Our goal today is to learn how to use Lebensohl when our side opens 1NT and the next player comes into the auction.

1. Rationale
2. Basics
3. Practice

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Lebensohl **2NT** can be 2- 3 types of hands:

Partner 1NT	Opposition 2D/H/S/NT	You 2NT
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- **A weak hand**
- **A medium or constructive hand**
- **Game Forcing hand**

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After **1NT X/2C**(by opponents) - most experts recommend playing your system and ignoring the interference. This is a partnership agreement.

There are more advanced uses of Lebensohl. We are learning the most basic and common uses of **Lebensohl 2NT**.

Lets look at how to bid a 5+ card suit

Scenario 1
When you are able to bid your suit at the 2 level:

Lebensohl 2NT shows a medium hand

First Scenario – You can show your 5+ card suit at the 2 level

Partner 1NT	Opposition 2D	You ?
Weak hand:	0-6 HCP and a 5+ card H/S suit	bid 2H/S
Medium hand:	7-9 HCP and a 5+ card suit	bid 2NT and then 3H/S on your next bid
Strong hand:	10+HCP and 5+H/S	bid 3H/S Game Force

Scenario 2 – You cannot show your 5 card suit at the 2 level

You are also limited to showing a weak hand and a strong hand and must determine one or the other

Partner 1NT	Opposition 2S	You ?
Weak/Medium hand:	6-8 HCP and a 5+ card suit	bid 2NT and then pass or bid 3D/H/S
Medium/Strong hand:	9+HCP and 5+H/S	bid 3H/S Game Force

Examples

Partner 1NT	Opposition 2D	You ?
♠ 8 4 2 ♥ J 10 7 4 5 3 ♦ 6 7 ♣ Q 7	♠ K Q 9 6 2 ♥ 5 3 ♦ 7 4 2 ♣ K J 3	♠ A Q 9 6 2 ♥ J 5 3 ♦ 7 2 ♣ K Q 3
Bid: 2H WEAK	Bid: 2NT Partner bids 3C Then bid 3H MEDIUM STRENGTH	Bid: 3S Game Force

Examples

Partner 1NT	Opposition 2S	You ?
♠ 8 4 2 ♥ K Q 4 5 3 ♦ 6 ♣ Q 7 3	♠ 4 3 ♥ J 5 3 ♦ 7 2 ♣ Q J 9 8 4 3	♠ 4 3 ♥ A K 9 5 3 ♦ A 2 ♣ Q J 10 6
Bid: 2NT partner bids 3C, then bid 3H on your next bid Weak/Medium hand	Bid: 2NT and pass 3C. With a very weak hand be sure to have a 6 card suit WEAK	Bid 3H Forcing

Ways to show a 4 card major

Cue bid the overcaller's suit

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Partner	RHO	You	
1NT	2D	?	
43	QJ10532	7542 A	Bid 2NT (Lebensohl). Over 3C, you'll bid 3H to show the very weak hand.
J5	Q654	A2 KJ753	Bid 2NT and then 3D showing a stopper and 4 card major
KQ52	732 43	AK75	Bid 3D no stopper and a 4 card major
AQ843	742 87	KJ9	Bid 3S Game Force at least 5+S
AJ1084	4 10987	1073	Bid 2S weak

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There are 2 ways to Cue bid the overcaller's suit

No stopper in the opponents suit

Partner	Opposition	You
1NT	2D	3D

The 3D means you have a game going hand and at least one 4 card major and no stopper in D.

Stopper in opponents suit

Partner	Overcaller	You	Advancer
1NT	2D	2NT	P
3C	P	3D	

The 2NT followed by the Cue bid of 3D shows at least one 4 card major and a stopper in D

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1NT (2S) ?

Spades	Hearts	Diamonds	Clubs
1. J982	973	A108	1087
2. 102	42	1082	A98762
3. K82	K852	A876	76
4. 52	AK42	1098	AQJ7

Answers:

1. Pass
2. 2NT – then pass 3C
3. 2NT – then bid 3S showing 4+ spades and a stopper in S
4. 3S - 4H and no stopper
5. 2S-- weak hand 5+S
6. 3H – too good not to bid, showing 4S and no stopper

1NT (2H) ?

5. QJ9872	973	108	87
6. A982	7	J105	A10963

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Partner	Overcaller	You
1NT	2S	?

♠ 6 4	♠ A 4	♠ 4
♥ J 9 7 3	♥ K 9 7 3	♥ J 9 7 3
♦ K Q 4 2	♦ Q 4 2	♦ A 5 4 2
♣ A 3 2	♣ A 9 3 2	♣ A K 3 2

No Stopper
in S
Bid 3S

Stopper in S
**Bid 2NT and
then 3S**

No Stopper
in S
Bid 3S

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Game going hand and no 4 or 5 card major

Bid 3NT – shows no stopper in the opponents suit with 10+ HCP and no 4 card major

1NT (2S) **3NT**
Your hand: 107 AK6 A973 J654

Bid 2NT and then 3NT – shows a stopper in opponents suit and no 4 card major

1NT (2S) **2NT** (P)
3C (P) **3NT**
Your hand: A7 K96 A973 J654

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Yeah – You have begun to master a
very difficult Convention



If you work at the convention, you will find that you get to better contracts and those annoying teams who interfere will not be so successful at stealing the contracts from you.

There are more ways to bid Lebensohl to show various hands, we have begun to understand the basics.