

## 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 Life*

Jane Youngberg

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The opposition opens 2S

Your hand

52 **AK74** **AJ53** KQ2

Your Bid? X

Your partner bids 3H.

Your Bid?

You forced your partner to bid. How many points does your partner have?

R  
A  
T  
I  
O  
N  
A  
L

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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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You	LHO	Partner	RHO
—	2♠	Dbl	Pass
?			

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

Lebensohl will give you the tools to show the value of these hands.

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Our goal today is to learn how to use Lebensohl over a weak two opening by the opposition

1. Rationale
2. Basics
3. Practice

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## Convention Defined

After an opponent opens a weak two bid and your partner makes a takeout double, your bid of **2NT is Lebensohl**.

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

Opener	Partner	Responder	You
<b>2S</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>2NT Lebensohl</b>

You are asking your partner to bid **3C** so you can describe your hand. Your partner must bid 3C unless his/her hand is huge 18+.

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Lebensohl 2NT can be 2 types of hands:

Opener	Partner	Responder	You
2D/H/S	X	P	<b>2NT</b>

**A weak hand**  
or  
**A medium or constructive hand**

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

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### Examples

Opener	Partner	Responder	You
2D	X	P	?

♠ Q J 8 4 2  
♥ K 4 5 3  
♦ 6  
♣ 9 7 3

♠ J 7 4 3  
♥ J 5 3  
♦ 7 2  
♣ J 8 4 3

Bid: 2NT partner bids 3C  
Then bid 3S on your next bid  
**MEDIUM STRENGTH**

Bid: 2S  
**WEAK**

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### First Scenario – You can show your suit at the 2 level

Opener	Partner	Responder	You
2D	X	P	?

Weak hand: 0-6 HCP and 4+H/S bid 2H/S

Medium hand: 7-11 HCP and 4+H/S bid 2NT and then 3H/S on your next bid

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### Scenario 1

When you are able to make a bid at the 2 level

**Lebensohl 2NT shows a medium hand**

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### Examples

Opener	Partner	Responder	You
2D	X	P	?

♠ 8 4 2  
♥ J 4 5 3  
♦ 6 7  
♣ Q 7 3 2

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

Bid: 2H  
**WEAK**

Bid: 2NT Partner bids 3C  
Then bid 3H on your next bid  
**MEDIUM STRENGTH**

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### Scenario 2

When you are **NOT** able to make a bid at the 2 level

Opener	Partner	Responder	You
2S	X	P	?

Weak hand: 0-6 HCP and 4+H/S bid 2NT and then Pass (C is your suit) or bid your suit

♠ 8 4 2  
♥ J 6 3  
♦ 6 7  
♣ Q J 7 3 2

♠ 8 4 2  
♥ J 9 7 3  
♦ Q 4 2  
♣ 7 3 2

Bid: 2NT, partner bids 3C you bid 3H

Bid: 2NT, partner bids 3C you Pass

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This convention is NOT EASY  
But the rewards are great!! 😊

**Scenario 1** you can bid at the 2 level

- **2NT** shows a **MEDIUM** hand – I have more than 6 points or I have something for you!

**Scenario 2** you cannot bid at the 2 level

- **2NT** shows a **WEAK** hand and asks partner to **STOP** after your second bid!

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<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
♠ Q 10 2	♠ 9 8 6 3	♠ 8 4 2
♥ 7 3	♥ Q 9 8 6 3	♥ J 9 7 3
♦ K J 10 5 3	♦ 4	♦ Q 4 2
♣ K 6 3	♣ K Q 5	♣ 7 3 2

**Scenario 2**

Opener 2S	Partner X	Responder P	You ?
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Cannot bid at the 2 level. 2NT would show a weak hand

A bid 3D Medium hand

B bid 3H Medium hand

C bid 2NT then 3H Weak hand!

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**Ask this question when your partner doubles a weak 2?**

If I bid 2NT what am I telling my partner?

- cannot bid my suit at the 2 level – **2NT is a weak hand**
- or
- can bid my suit at the 2 level but have more than a minimum – **2NT is a medium hand.**

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LHO	Partner	RHO	You
2H	DBL	Pass	?
43	7542 J10532	Q8	<b>Bid 2NT</b> (Lebensohl). Over 3C, you'll bid 3D to show the very weak hand.
J5	Q654 Q2 QJ753	QJ753	<b>Bid 3C</b> shows a medium hand with C and denies 4 spades
K52	732 AJ643 75	75	<b>Bid 3D</b> Shows a medium hand. Partner will bid on with extra values
AQ83	742 K873 J9	J9	<b>Bid 2NT</b> (Lebensohl). Over 3C, you'll bid 3S to show a medium hand
AQ1084	4 A1097 1073	1073	<b>Bid 4S</b> forcing 2S shows the weak hand, 2NT and then 3S shows a medium hand, 3S shows a GF hand

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<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>
♠ 8 4 2	♠ 9 8 6 3	♠ K Q 8 4 2
♥ J 9 7 3	♥ Q 9 8 6 3	♥ 9 7
♦ Q 4 2	♦ 4	♦ A 4
♣ 7 3 2	♣ K Q 5	♣ A K 7

**Scenario 1**

Opener 2D	Partner X	Responder P	You ?
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Can bid at the 2 level. 2NT would show a medium hand

- A) bid 2H weak!
- B) bid 2NT then 3H Medium Hand
- C) bid 4S Game force!

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**(2H) – Double – (Pass) – ?**

**Answers:**

	Spades	Hearts	Diamonds	Clubs
1.	J982	973	A108	1087
2.	102	42	A1082	98762
3.	K1082	K8	876	QJ76
4.	AK52	42	1098	AQJ7

**(2D) – Double – (Pass) – ?**

5.	J982	973	A108	1087
6.	A982	Q97	10	J10763

- 1. 2S-- weak hand, best suit
- 2. 2NT – then pass 3C
- 3. 2NT – then bid 3S showing 4+ spades and a medium hand
- 4. 4S
- 5. 2S-- weak hand 4+S
- 6. 2NT – then bid 3S. Always show the 4 card major with a medium hand

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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.

Hope you come next week for part 2!