

# Lebensohl After Opponent's Weak-Two Opening- part 1

A Very Useful Convention

# Introduction

- I have discussed Lebensohl as a conventional response when opponents interfere over partner's one-no-trump opening bid.
- We will examine how the convention is used after partner makes a takeout double of an opponent's weak-two opening bid.
- It will take us two weeks to cover this convention fully.
- However, you will learn enough in this first lesson to begin using the convention.

# Imagine This Auction

North East South West

2♠      dble   pass   3♥

pass

East's hand

♠ 4 2

♥ A Q J 5      (17 points)

♦ K Q 5 3

♣ A J 10

Hand 1: lucky to make 3♥.

Hand 2: really good chance to  
make 4♥.

How will you know?

West is forced to bid. Here are  
two possible hands:

Hand 1

♠ 9 6 5 3

♥ K 8 7 3

♦ 9 8 2

♣ 7 3

Hand 2

♠ 9 6 5 3

♥ K 8 7 3

♦ A 8 2

♣ Q 3

# The Basics of the Convention

- After a weak-two opening by LHO, a double by your partner and a pass by RHO...
  - Any 2-level suit bid = 0-8 points, to play unless partner has a very strong hand.
  - A direct, 3-level bid (jump or non-jump) 9-12 points. {game invitational]
  - A 4-level bid of an unbid major suit is to play, without slam interest.
  - A 5-level bid of an unbid minor is to play, without slam interest.
  - A direct cue bid of the opponent's suit is game forcing and shows slam interest.

# More Basics

- After a weak-two opening by LHO, a double by your partner and a pass by RHO...
  - 2 no trump is conventional, *alertable*, a relay, requiring partner to bid 3♣.
  - Shows 0-8 points and a desire to play a suit at the 3-level, below the rank of the opponent's suit.
  - There are some *optional* refinements - see next slide.

# Optional Refinements After the Relay

North East South West (you)

2♥ dble pass 2nt

pass 3♣ pass 3♠

- Shows a 9-11 with 4 spades.
- A direct jump (passing up the relay) shows 9-11 with 5+ spades.
- After the relay, a bid of 3nt is to play but shows a single stopper in the opponent's suit.
  - Expressing some doubt about the no trump.
- A direct jump to 3 no trump shows a double stopper.

# Let's Look at Some Examples

- For all the following examples, you will be west, and the bidding will be.

North	East	South	West
2♥	dble	pass	??

# Example 1

West's hand

♠ A 9 6 5

♥ 8 7 3 (7 points)

♦ K 8 4 2

♣ 7 3

- Your bid 2♠
- Any 2-level bid is to play.
- Shows 0-8 points.

# Example 2

West's hand

♠ J 6 5

♥ 8 7 3 (3 points)

♦ 4 2

♣ Q 9 7 5 3

- Your bid 2 nt
- Partner will bid 3♣.
- You will pass.

# Example 3

West's hand

♠ A 6 5

♥ 8 7 3 (10 points)

♦ A J 10 5

♣ J 9 7

- Your bid 3♦.
- Constructive 9-12 points.
- Partner can pass.
- Bid 3nt – you will pass.
- Bid 3♠, you will raise to 4♠.

# Example 4

West's hand

♠ 6 5

♥ 8 7 5 3 (4 points)

♦ Q 9 6 5

♣ Q 9 7

- Your bid 2 nt.
- Partner will bid 3♣.
- You will bid 3♦.
- Partner will pass
- All you can do is hope for the best.
- This is why they preempt.

# Example 5

West's hand

♠ A 9 6 5 3

♥ 8 5 3 (9 points)

♦ Q 9 5

♣ K 7

- Your bid 3♠.
- Natural and invitational, with a 5-card suit.

# Example 6

West's hand

♠ A J 6 5

♥ 8 5 3 (10 points)

♦ Q 9 5 2

♣ K 7

- Your bid 2nt.
- Partner bids 3♣.
- You bid 3♠.
- Same invitation, but with a 4-card suit.
- Note with a 0-8 points, you would have bid 2♠.

# Example 7

West's hand

♠ A 5

♥ Q 9 6 5 3 (8 points)

♦ 5 2

♣ Q 7 4 2

- Your bid 2nt.
- Partner bids 3♣.
- You will pass.
- This hand is not good enough to pass partner's double for penalty.

# Example 8

West's hand

♠ 7 5

♥ Q J 10 5 3 (6 points)

♦ 5 2

♣ K 7 4 2

- Your bid Pass.
- You have only 6 points.
- Your heart suit is strong enough to turn partner's takeout double into a penalty double.

# Example 9

West's hand

♠ Q J 7 5

♥ Q 3 (9 points)

♦ K 5 2

♣ J 7 4 2

- Your bid 2♠.
- It looks like you have 9 points.
- You might think you should make an invitational bid.
- But 2 of your points are the queen of hearts.
- Surely, useless points.

# Example 10

West's hand

♠ A 9 7 5

♥ 8 3 (14 points)

♦ K Q 5 2

♣ A J 2

- Your bid 3♥.
- Your cue bid is forcing to game.
- You might just bid 4♠.
- Your hand is good enough that you might have a slam.
- Show partner that you have a really good hand.

# Example 11

West's hand

♠ K Q J 9 7 5

♥ 8 3 2 (9 points)

♦ K 5 2

♣ 8

- Your bid 4♠.
- You have enough for game.
- Your hand is not good enough to consider slam, unless partner makes the first step.

# Example 12

West's hand

♠ A 5

♥ 2 (15 points)

♦ K Q 9 5 2

♣ A Q 8 6 3

- Your bid 3♥.
- Show your partner that you have slam interest.
- You will probably play 6 of one of the minors.

# Example 13

West's hand

♠ Q 5

♥ A 10 3 (15 points)

♦ K Q 9 5

♣ A 8 6 3

- Your bid 2 nt.
- Partner will bid 3♣.
- You will bid 3nt.
- Going through the relay shows partner that you have a single stopper.
- You are not sure you can handle the heart suit.
- Partner will need some help in hearts (Q x).

# Example 14

West's hand

♠ A J 5

♥ Q J 9 8 (12 points)

♦ Q 9 5

♣ K 6 3

- Your bid 3 nt.
- A direct 3nt bid shows a sure double stopper and enough points for game.

# Final Thoughts

- I've show you the basics of the system.
- Next week I will look at what to do if the opponents compete further.