

ADVANCED LEBENSOHL

Almost all the bridge players today use Jacoby transfers over 1NT Opening. The main advantage of using transfers is to make 1NT opener declarer most of the time. The notrump bidder almost always has the stronger hand and therefore it is better to have the opening lead come up to his high cards and tenaces. It also keeps the stronger hand concealed from the defenders.

Advanced Lebensohl convention is a modification of Standard Labensohl where Jacoby Transfers have been integrated in the response structure. By using transfers, responder is able to show various types of hands which are difficult to show using standard methods: invitational hands in all the three suits not shown by the overcall, two-suiters with game or slam potential.

A) Advanced Lebensohl Responses after Opponents interfere over 1NT Opening

The corner stone of Advanced Lebensohl convention also is a bid of 2NT which is transfer to 3C. The responder may have, weak or invitational or game forcing hand in clubs, weak hand in other suits below the overcaller's suit or check in opponent's suit and 4-cards in the other major. The various responses are:

- **Double**, is for Penalties or take out or raise to 2NT depending on partnership understanding.
- **Two-level suit bid**, is natural and non forcing, to play.
- **Cue-bid of overcaller's suit**, is like Stayman and promises a 4-card major and denies a check in the opponent's suit. The cue-bid is game forcing.
- **Three-level suit bid**, is transfer to next higher suit, by passing opponent's suit and shows at least game invitational hand. If opponent has bid 2D, then 3C is transfer to 3H where as if opponent bids 2H, then 3D is transfer to spade.
- **Jump to 3NT**, shows a stopper in the opponent's suit and is to play. (different from Standard Lebensohl)
- **2NT**, is transfer to 3C. Opener bids 3C only if he has a hand with which he wants to reject game invitation in clubs. Other wise he bids 3D. Responder over 3C, then rebids:
 - **Pass**, shows a hand with long clubs (weak or invitational).
 - **New suit below the overcaller's suit**, is to play.
 - **New suit above the overcaller's suit**, is Natural shows clubs and the new suit, GF.
 - **Cue-bid of overcaller's suit**, is like game forcing Stayman and promises a 4-card major and also shows a check in the opponent's suit. Opener bids a 4-card major, otherwise 3NT.
 - **3NT**, to play but shows club suit.
- **Other major at 3-level or 3S (over 2D)**, shows a game forcing hand without a check in opponent's suit or both minors. Opener to bid 3NT with a check other wise look for a minor suit game.
- **Four-level bids**, as without intervention, 4C – Gerber; 4D/H – Texas transfer; 4S – Minors etc.

B) Examples: (assumes 15-17 NT)

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|--|---|---|--|---|
| ♠ Ax ♥ xx ♦ xxx ♣ KQxxxx | ♠ Qxx ♥ x ♦ QJ9xxx ♣ xxx | ♠ xxx ♥ AKQxx ♦ Jxx ♣ xx | ♠ Kxx ♥ AQxx ♦ xxx ♣ Kxx | ♠ xxx ♥ AQxxx ♦ Qxx ♣ xx |
| After 1NT Opening & 2H overcall, bid 2NT as transfer to 3C. If opener bids 3C, you can pass (if you want) and if he bids 3D (showing fit in clubs), you can bid 3NT. | After 1NT Opening & 2H overcall, bid 2N which is transfer to 3C. Over 3C bid 3D which is sign-off. If opener bids 3D, pass to show weak hand. | After 1NT Opening & 2S overcall bid, 3C which is transfer to heart and at least invitational. After opener bids 3H bid 3S to force to game. | After 1NT Opening & 2S overcall bid 2N transfer to 3C. Over 3C bid 3S as spade stopper and 4 hearts, GF. This bidding is same in both the versions of Lebensohl. | After 1N Opening & 2S overcall bid 3D as transfer to 3H. If opener bids 3H, pass to show an invitational hand. This bidding is better than in normal Lebensohl. |

We will continue our discussion on Lebensohl convention in next month's bulletin where we will discuss how to use Lebensohl Principle in other situations.

(Contributed by Sudhir Aggarwal)

EXTENDED LEBENSOHL

Lebensohl convention, which we discussed in our earlier articles, was devised basically for responder to compete effectively after an overcall over partner's one notrump opening. Use of this convention has been extended to solve problems in many other bidding situations. In this article we will discuss two main situations where Extended Lebensohl principle is used by many partnerships.

A) Lebensohl after Double of Opponent's Weak Two-bid

When partner makes a take out double of an opponent's weak two bid, it is difficult to bid accurately as a 3-level response has a very wide range. You can have from 0 HCP to 9/10 HCP. It is therefore not possible for doubler to accurately assess the combined potential of the hands. Lebensohl convention solves this problem as it provides two ways to make the three-level response – one direct and one via 2NT.

- **2NT**, is puppet to 3C. Doubler bids 3C only if he has a hand with which he is ready to play in 3C. With a very strong balanced hand or an unbalanced hand with a long suit, doubler may make other suitable bids. Responder over 3C, then rebids:
 - **Pass**, shows a weak hand with clubs (0 to 7 HCP).
 - **New suit below the weak two suit**, is to play. Shows a weak hand (0 to 7 HCP).
 - **New suit above the weak two suit**, is natural and constructive, about 7-10 HCP.
 - **Cue-bid of opponent's suit**, is like game forcing Stayman and promises 4-card in other major and also shows a check in the opponent's suit.
 - **3NT**, denies 4-cards in other major and shows a partial stopper in opponent's suit.
- **Three-level non jump suit bid**, is natural and constructive, about 7-10 HCP.
- **Jump bid in a suit (below game)**, is natural and forcing.
- **Cue-bid of overcaller's suit**, is game forcing generally denies check in opponent's suit, may have 4-cards in the other major.
- **Jump to 3NT**, shows a stopper in the opponent's suit and is to play.

B) Lebensohl after Reverse

The Lebensohl convention which is generally used in competitive situations can also be used in uncontested auctions where there is a need to differentiate between 3-level bids that are strength showing and those which are not. One such situation occurs when responder has to rebid after opener has made a reverse. Opener's reverse is a rebid at the 2-level in a new suit ranking above his first bid suit but below responder's suit. As the reverses are generally forcing for one round, responder must inform opener whether he has a weak hand or GF hand. This can be easily achieved by Extended Lebensohl where:

- **2NT**, is puppet to 3C and generally shows a weak hand. Opener bids 3C only if he is ready to play in 3C. If opener is too good, he bids more than 3C. Responder over 3C, then rebids:
 - **Pass**, shows a weak hand.
 - **Bids any of opener's suit at 3-level**, is to play. Shows a weak hand.
 - **Rebid of responder's own major suit**, GF hand with weak suit.
 - **3NT**, to play but shows mild slam interest.
- **Rebid of Major at 2-level**, is natural, shows 5+ cards and to play.
- **Jump rebid of Major at 3-level**, is GF with a good suit.
- **Three-level bids**, forcing to game.
- **Jump to 3NT**, is to play.

The above situations are very common and certainly it is necessary to play this form of Lebensohl to be able to bid effectively.

(Contributed by Sudhir Aggarwal)