Lebensohl NG34Bridge

## Response to Partner's Double of a Weak 2 bid

Partner's takeout double of a Weak 2 requires similar shape and strength to that required for a takeout double of a 1-level opening bid. But now, if you have to respond at the 3 level, you will have to concertina 0-7 HCP hands and 8-11 HCP hands into one 3-level response. Partner will have to assume you are very weak, so will pass unless he has 19+ HCP, and a possible game contract will be missed. The Lebensohl '2NT - 3\( \frac{1}{2}\) relay enables you to differentiate between a very weak hand (0-7 HCP) and one that is suitable for a constructive bid (8-11 HCP).

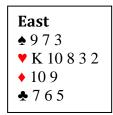
Responses to partner's takeout double:

## Weak hands (0-7 pts.)

If your suit is higher in rank than the pre-emptor's suit (i.e., LHO opens 2♥ and you have spades), you make your "normal" minimum bid at the 2-level. But if you would have to go to the 3-level to make a minimum bid in your suit, you start with 2NT to relay partner to 3♥. Partner must bid 3♣. You now pass if clubs is your suit, or bid another suit.

East					
<b>♠</b> QJ73					
<b>♥</b> 5 4 2					
<b>♦</b> 10 9 7					
<b>♣</b> J 6 2					

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W N E S
2 → X P 2 →
0-7 HCP.
Signoff at 2 level
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0-7 HCP. Signoff at 3 level Lebensohl relay.

## Medium-strength hands- Invitational (8-11 pts.)

West

2

P

If you bid a suit at the 3-level (instead of using the 2NT sequence), it is encouraging, but not forcing. It shows a hand with constructive values (a good 8 to about 11 pts.), but not enough to jump to game. Doubler can pass with a minimum or bid on with extra values. You can also use the Lebensohl 2NT to invite when your suit is higher in rank than the pre-emptor's suit. If LHO opens  $2 \checkmark$  and you have spades, you can sign off in  $2 \spadesuit$  if weak. If you instead use the Lebensohl 2NT –  $3 \spadesuit$  -  $3 \spadesuit$  sequence, it shows invitational values  $\{8-11 \text{ pts}\}$ .

You

2NT

3♠

East
<b>♦</b> A K 9 7 3
<b>♥</b> J 4
<b>♦</b> 864
<b>♣</b> 10 3 2

**East** 

**★**864

**V** O 9

**♦** 8 6 4 2

♣ A Q J 10 3

_				
	West	North	East	You
	2♥	X	P	3♣

North

X

3♣

**East** 

P

P

8-11 HCP. Invitational.

Lebensohl relay. A direct 3♠ bid would have been game forcing.

A direct 2♠ would have been weak, competitive)

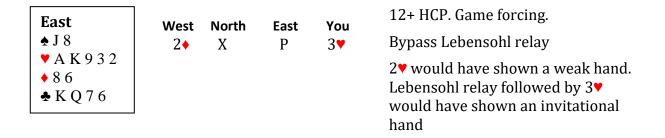
8-11 HCP. Invitational.

Bypass Lebensohl relay

Lebensohl 2NT – 3♣ – P would have shown a weak hand.

## Forcing hands (12+ pts.)

The Lebensohl 2NT sequences above all show limited values. If you have invitational or forcing-to-game strength, your jump responses can all retain their standard meaning.



With good balanced hands, you may be interested in no-trumps instead. Lebensohl provides two ways of describing your values. A straight jump to 3NT (fast arrival) shows a stop in the opponents' suit. Lebensohl relay followed by 3NT (slow arrival) shows no stop.

(Note: some pairs reverse the stop/no stop bids. Use the system that you use for normal Lebensohl)

East  ♠ 9 5 2  ♥ A J 9  • K 8 7  ♣ A J 10 3	West 2◆	North X	East P	You 3NT	12 + HCP balanced. Bypass Lebensohl relay Shows a stop in the opponents' suit.
East  ♠ Q 5 2  ♥ A J 9  ♦ J 8 7  ♣ A J 10 3	West 2∳ P	North X 3♣	East P P	You 2NT 3NT	12 + HCP balanced.  Lebensohl Relay  Shows no stop in the opponents' suit.  Partner can pass with a spade  stopper, or start scrambling at the 4- level without one.