

Deal 1

North Deals

None Vul

♠ J 8 2
♥ 8 2
♦ K T
♣ A T 8 7 6 3

16
8
5

♠ A Q 6

♥ Q 7 3

♦ A 8 5

♣ K J 9 4

N		
W	E	
S		

♠ 4

♥ A K J T 9 5

♦ Q J 3 2

♣ 5 2

♠ K T 9 7 5 3

♥ 6 4

♦ 9 7 6 4

♣ Q

West	North	East	South
	1NT	2♥	2♠

All Pass

2 ♠ by South

Baker Leben 1

This is a sign-off hand. If East hadn't bid you would either have bid 2♠, which partner would have passed, or 2♥, transferring partner to 2♠ which YOU would have passed.

With lebenohl you can do the same thing, so you bid 2♠ and partner passes.

Deal 2

North Deals

N-S Vul

♠ 9 4 2

♥ K T 9

♦ T 8 2

♣ T 8 6 5

♠ T 8 5

♥ A 8

♦ A K 7 6

♣ K Q 9 3



16

3 10

11

 ♠ K Q J 7 3
 ♥ 7 5
 ♦ 5 4 3
 ♣ A J 7

♠ A 6

♥ Q J 6 4 3 2

♦ Q J 9

♣ 4 2

Baker Leben 2

Partner's bid at the 3-level is forcing to game and shows a 5-card ♠ suit.

With 3-card support you are happy to bid 4♠.

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	2♥	3♠
4♠	All Pass		

4 ♠ by North

Deal 3

North Deals

None Vul

♠ Q T 7 4 3 2

♥ T 5 3

♦ 9 6

♣ T 2

17
2 **10**
11

♠ A 9 6
♥ Q 7 4
♦ A 8 5
♣ A K 7 6

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ J
♥ 9 2
♦ K Q J T 4 3
♣ Q J 9 5

♠ K 8 5
♥ A K J 8 6
♦ 7 2
♣ 8 4 3

West	North	East	South
	1NT	2♦	3♥
Pass	4♥	All Pass	

4 ♥ by North

Baker Leben 3

With 12 points opposite partner's 15-17, this is a forcing-to-game hand, so you bid 3♥. Don't think of it as a jump, just a 3-level bid showing at least 10 points and a 5+ card suit.

Partner has 3-card support and is happy to bid game in that suit.

Deal 4

North Deals
Both Vul

♠ J 7 5 4
♥ 9 6 4
♦ T 9 8 2
♣ 8 3

17
1 **16**
6

♠ K Q 9 3
♥ A T 8 5
♦ A K 6
♣ J 6

N
W E
S

♠ A T 2
♥ 2
♦ Q J 7
♣ A K Q T 5 4

♠ 8 6
♥ K Q J 7 3
♦ 5 4 3
♣ 9 7 2

West North East South
All Pass

2 ♥ by South

Baker Leben 4

Partner's bid at the 2-level is a sign-off, the equivalent of the old "drop-dead" response.

So even with your great support and maximum hand, you pass.

Deal 5
 South Deals
 N-S Vul
 ♠ J 3
 ♥ 4 3
 ♦ T 8 7
 ♣ A K Q 9 5 2

11
10 3
16

♠ A Q T 8
 ♥ K J 9 5
 ♦ J 5 4
 ♣ 8 4

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 7 6 5 4 2
 ♥ T 8 2
 ♦ Q 6 3
 ♣ J 3

♠ K 9
 ♥ A Q 7 6
 ♦ A K 9 2
 ♣ T 7 6

West	North	East	South
2♣	3♣	Pass	1NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♥

4♥ by North

Baker Leben 5

With 11 points opposite partner's 15-17, this is a forcing-to-game hand, and it is possible that a jump to 3NT (which says you have no ♣ stopper) would work. However, with two 4-card Major suits you should use the lebensohl equivalent of Stayman, which is a cue-bid of 3♣.

Partner bids 3♥. What do you say?

With a known 8-card Major fit and a known 26-28 points you bid 4♥.

Deal 6

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A T 5
♥ 6 2
♦ A K J 5 4 2
♣ 9 4

10
12 2
16

♠ 7 6
♥ K Q J 7
♦ T 3
♣ A T 7 3 2

N
W E
S

♠ J 8 4 2
♥ 9 4 3
♦ 9 8 7
♣ J 8 5

♠ K Q 9 3
♥ A T 8 5
♦ Q 6
♣ K Q 6

West	North	East	South
2♦	3♦	Pass	1NT
Pass	4♥	All Pass	3♥

4♥ by North

Baker Leben 6

Partner's direct cue-bid is the lebensohl equivalent of Stayman, but with no ♦ stopper.

With 4 cards in both Majors you bid 3♥.

Partner then bids 4♥ which you pass.

Deal 7North Deals
None Vul

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

17	6 2
7	8 5 3
5	♦ Q 9 8 7 5 4

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

N E
W S

West	North	East	South
	1NT	2♠	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♦
All Pass			

3♦ by South

Baker Leben 7

With your hand you'd like to sign off in 3♦. But you cannot actually bid 3♦ because that would show a forcing-to-game hand. So you bid a lebensohl 2NT.

Partner makes the relay bid of 3♣. What do you say?

NOW you can bid 3♦, which partner passes.

Deal 8

North Deals

None Vul

♠ K 9 6
♥ A 3
♦ A 7 2
♣ T 9 8 5 2

15
11 10
4

♠ A 8 7
♥ K 6 5
♦ Q J T 6
♣ K Q 6

N
W E
S

♠ Q J T 4 3 2
♥ T 8
♦ K 8 5
♣ A 3

♠ 5
♥ Q J 9 7 4 2
♦ 9 4 3
♣ J 7 4

West	North	East	South
	1NT	2♠	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
All Pass			

3♥ by South

Baker Leben 8
Partner's 2NT bid is lebensohl, asking you to bid 3♣. You bid 3♣. Partner says 3♥.

What do you say now?

How about . . . pass? Partner just signed off with this sequence. He couldn't bid 3♥ directly, that would have been a game-force.

Deal 9
 South Deals
 E-W Vul
 ♠ A K Q J T 9
 ♥ T 4
 ♦ 8 7 5 2
 ♣ 9

12
 10 2
 16

♠ 8 4
 ♥ 9 8 5 3
 ♦ K Q J 4
 ♣ A Q 7

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 6 3
 ♥ J 7 2
 ♦ T 9 6
 ♣ J 6 5 4 2

♠ 7 5 2
 ♥ A K Q 6
 ♦ A 3
 ♣ K T 8 3

West	North	East	South
2♠	3♠	Pass	1NT
All Pass			4♥

4♥ by South

Baker Leben 9

With your 12 point hand you need to force to game. It would also be nice to find out if partner has a 4-card ♥ suit. So you cue-bid 3♠. This is the lebensohl version of Stayman, but WITH NO ♠ STOPPER. (Direct Denies)

Partner says 4♥ and you pass.

Deal 10

South Deals

None Vul

♠ J 4 3

♥ K Q 9 7 6 4

♦ 9

♣ A J 6

♠ K T 5

♥ 5 2

♦ A Q J 7 3

♣ 8 7 5



♠ Q 8 6 2

♥ 8 3

♦ 8 5 4 2

♣ T 3 2

10

11 2

17

♠ A 9 7

♥ A J T

♦ K T 6

♣ K Q 9 4

West

North

East

South

1NT

2♥

3♦

Pass

3NT

All Pass

Baker Leben 10

Partner has promised at least a 5-card ♦ suit, and game-forcing strength. With your great ♥ stoppers you bid 3NT.

3NT by South

Deal 11
South Deals
None Vul

♠ K J T 8 4 3
♥ T 2
♦ 8 7
♣ A Q 9

12
10 2
16

♠ A Q
♥ K 8 5 3
♦ Q J 9 4
♣ 7 6 4

♠ 9 6
♥ J 9 7 6 4
♦ T 6 2
♣ J 5 2

N
W E
S

♠ 7 5 2
♥ A Q
♦ A K 5 3
♣ K T 8 3

West	North	East	South
			1NT
2♠	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♠	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

3 NT by South

Baker Leben 11

With your 12 point hand you need to force to game. It would also be nice to find out if partner has a 4-card ♥ suit. Since you have West's ♠ suit stopped, you first bid a lebensohl 2NT.

Partner says 3♣. What do you bid?

NOW you cue-bid 3♠. This is Stayman, but with a ♠ stopper, (SLOW SHOWS). Partner says 3NT and you pass.

Deal 12

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A T 5
♥ 8 4
♦ K 8 5 4 3 2
♣ A 7

12
11 **1**
16

♠ J 9 6 4
♥ K Q 7 3
♦ A Q 9
♣ T 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ 7 3 2
♥ T 9 6 2
♦ J 7
♣ 8 6 5 2

♠ K Q 8
♥ A J 5
♦ T 6
♣ K Q J 9 4

West	North	East	South
			1NT
2♦	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3NT
All Pass			

3 NT by South

Baker Leben 12

Partner's 2NT bid requests that you bid 3♣, so you do.

He next says 3♦.

Partner has just described a hand with which he wants to play in game, which has at least one 4-card Major suit, and has ♦'s stopped. He wants you to pick the game.

With no 4-card Major of your own, you pick 3NT.

Deal 13

South Deals

Both Vul

♠ Q J 8 2

♥ K Q T 8 4 2

♦ T

♣ Q 8

12

10 1

17

♠ A 7 4

♥ 7 6 3

♦ A J 6

♣ K 9 7 4



♠ T 6 3

♥ 5

♦ 9 7 4 3 2

♣ J 6 5 3

West

North

East

South

1NT

2♥

3NT

All Pass

Baker Leben 13

With 12 points opposite partner's 15-17, this is a forcing-to-game hand. If it had not been for the ♥ overcall you would just have jumped to 3NT.

Playing lebensohl you do the same thing, jump to 3NT. Since you went directly to 3NT you are telling partner you have that type of hand, but DO NOT have a ♥ stopper (DIRECT DENIES).

Partner does have them stopped so he passes.

3NT by North

Deal 14

South Deals
None Vul

♠ K 9 7
♥ A Q T 5 3 2
♦ J
♣ 9 6 5

13
10 **1**
16

♠ Q T 4
♥ K J 6
♦ A 9 7
♣ K T 8 3

N
W E
S

♠ 8 6 3 2
♥ 8 4
♦ 6 5 4 2
♣ J 4 2

♠ A J 5
♥ 9 7
♦ K Q T 8 3
♣ A Q 7

West	North	East	South
2♥	2NT	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♣

3NT by North

Baker Leben 14.

Partner's 2NT bid requests that you bid 3♣, so you do.

He next says 3NT.

Partner's bidding shows a hand with which he would have bid 3NT without the overcall. Furthermore, he promises a ♥ stopper. He expects you to pass, so you do.

Deal 15
 South Deals
 N-S Vul
 ♠ K J T 8 6 3
 ♥ 4
 ♦ 7 2
 ♣ A Q J 2

12
 11 1
 16
 ♠ 7 4 2
 ♥ A Q
 ♦ A K 5 3
 ♣ K T 9 3

♠ A Q 5
 ♥ K 8 3
 ♦ Q J 9 4
 ♣ 7 6 4

N
 W E
 S

♠ 9
 ♥ J T 9 7 6 5 2
 ♦ T 8 6
 ♣ 8 5

West	North	East	South
2♠	2NT	Pass	1NT
Pass	3NT	All Pass	3♣

3NT by North

Baker Leben 15

With your 12 point balanced hand you know you are going to play in game. Since you have no interest in looking for a 4-4 Major suit fit you also know that game is going to be 3NT. But you can't actually BID 3NT, because partner would almost surely take you out to a minor suit. Remember, a DIRECT 3NT bid DENIES a stopper in their suit. Since you have West's ♠ suit stopped, you first bid a lebensohl 2NT.

Partner says 3♣. What do you bid?

You now complete the picture of your hand by bidding 3NT. (SLOW SHOWS). Partner passes.

Deal 16

East Deals

E-W Vul

♠ K J 7 3
 ♥ 9 6 4
 ♦ J 8 2
 ♣ K 6 5

5
 8 16
 11

♠ -
 ♥ J T 8 5 3 2
 ♦ A T 9 4
 ♣ 8 3 2

N
 W E
 S

♠ T 8 5
 ♥ A K 7
 ♦ K Q 7 3
 ♣ A 7 4

♠ A Q 9 6 4 2
 ♥ Q
 ♦ 6 5
 ♣ Q J T 9

West	North	East	South
		1NT	2♠

Dbl All Pass

Baker Leben 16

Playing lebensohl, when partner doubles the overcall it is for penalties.

Since you trust your partner, you pass.

2 ♠ X by South

Deal 17

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 8 6 3 2
♥ 8 4 2
♦ Q 2
♣ 7 6 5 4

17
2 13
8

♠ K J 5
♥ K J 7
♦ A 9 6
♣ K Q T 2

N
W E
S

♠ A T 9
♥ A 3
♦ K J T 7 5 4
♣ J 9

♠ Q 7 4
♥ Q T 9 6 5
♦ 8 3
♣ A 8 3

West	North	East	South
Pass	1NT	2♦	2NT
Pass	3♣	Pass	3♥
	4♥	All Pass	

4♥ by North

Baker Leben 17

With 9 points you don't want to sign-off with 2♥. But you aren't strong enough to force to game with a 3♥ bid either. So you start an invitational sequence by bidding 2NT.

Partner says 3♣. What do you bid?

Now you bid 3♥. Partner will realize you have better than a sign-off, but were not good enough to bid 3♥ immediately. He has a maximum, and he knows you have a 5-card suit, so he bids 4♥.

Deal 18

South Deals

None Vul

♠ 9 4
 ♥ A K Q 5 3 2
 ♦ J 4 2
 ♣ 9 6

13
10 **1**
16

♠ A J 6 3

♥ 9 4

♦ A 8 5

♣ K J T 3

	N	
W		E
	S	

♠ T 8 7 2
 ♥ J 7 6
 ♦ T 9 6
 ♣ 8 5 2

♠ K Q 5
 ♥ T 8
 ♦ K Q 7 3
 ♣ A Q 7 4

West	North	East	South
2♥ Pass	3♥ 5♣	Pass All Pass	1NT 4♣

5♣ by North

Baker Leben 18

Partner's bid asks if you have 4 ♠s, and denies a ♥ stopper. (DIRECT DENIES)

You don't have 4 ♠s, nor can you stop ♥s. You have no choice but to bid one of the 4-card Minor suits, so you go up-the-line and bid 4♣. Partner bids 5♣.

Deal 19

East Deals

E-W Vul

♠ A 8
♥ 7 6 4
♦ A J 9 7
♣ T 9 6 4

4
9 17
10

♠ Q 9 6 4 2

♥ Q T 8

♦ 2

♣ 8 7 3 2

N
W
E
S

♠ K 7 3
♥ A 9 5 2
♦ Q 5
♣ A K J 5

♠ J T 5
♥ K J 3
♦ K T 8 6 4 3
♣ Q

West	North	East	South
		1NT	2♦

Dbl All Pass

Baker Leben 19

It is possible your side can make 3NT on this deal. You have 9 points, invitational strength, and your ♦ stopper is excellent.

However you should look for an even bigger reward by doubling. South is in serious trouble, and when the opponents make a mistake you should punish them.

2♦ X by South

Deal 20

South Deals

None Vul

♠ A 5 2
♥ 9 5 3 2
♦ K Q J 6 3 2
♣ -

12
10 **2**
16

♠ Q T 8 4

♥ K 6

♦ A T 7

♣ K T 8 3

N
W E
S

♠ 7 6
♥ J T 4
♦ 8 4
♣ J 9 6 5 4 2

♠ K J 9 3
♥ A Q 8 7
♦ 9 5
♣ A Q 7

West	North	East	South
			1NT
2♦	2NT	Pass	3♣
Pass	3♦	Pass	3♥
Pass	3NT	Pass	4♠
All Pass			

4 ♠ by South

Baker Leben 20

Partner's 2NT bid requests that you bid 3♣, so you do. He next says 3♦.

Partner's bid is game-forcing Stayman, but with a ♦ stopper (SLOW SHOWS). Holding 4 cards in each Major you bid up-the-line, 4♥. Partner now bids 3NT. What do you say?

Partner would not have asked for a 4-card Major unless he held one himself. Since it wasn't ♥s it must be the other one. You bid 4♠.