

**Deal 1**

South Deals

None Vul

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

5  
11 8  
16

♠ K T 9 7 5 3

♥ 6 4

♦ 9 7 6 4

♣ Q



♠ A Q 6

♥ Q 7 3

♦ A 8 5

♣ K J 9 4

♠ J 8 2

♥ 8 2

♦ K T

♣ A T 8 7 6 3

West

2♥

North

2♠

East

All Pass

South

1NT

2♠ by North

**Baker Leben 1**

This is a sign-off hand. If West 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 lebensohl 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

16  
3 10  
11

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



♠ 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
	1NT	2♥	3♠
Pass	4♠	All Pass	

4 ♠ by North

**Deal 3**

South Deals

E-W Vul

♠ J  
♥ 9 2  
♦ K Q J T 4 3  
♣ Q J 9 5

11  
10 2  
17

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



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

♠ Q T 7 4 3 2  
♥ T 5 3  
♦ 9 6  
♣ T 2

**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.

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

4♥ by South

**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



♠ 8 6

♥ K Q J 7 3

♦ 5 4 3

♣ 9 7 2

♠ A T 2

♥ 2

♦ Q J 7

♣ A K Q T 5 4

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.

West

North

East

South

1NT

2♣

2♥

All Pass

2♥ by South

**Deal 5**

North Deals  
None Vul

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

16  
3 10  
11

♠ K 9  
♥ A Q 7 6  
♦ A K 9 2  
♣ T 7 6



♠ A Q T 8  
♥ K J 9 5  
♦ J 5 4  
♣ 8 4

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

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

4♥ by South

**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



♠ K Q 9 3  
♥ A T 8 5  
♦ Q 6  
♣ K Q 6

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

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 7**

South Deals

Both Vul

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

5  
11 7  
17

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



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

♠ T 3  
♥ K T 6  
♦ T 6  
♣ A T 9 8 5 2

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

3♦ by North

**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



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

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

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**

North Deals  
None Vul

♠ 6 3  
♥ J 7 2  
♦ T 9 6  
♣ J 6 5 4 2

16  
2    10  
12

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



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

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

**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.

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

4♥ by North

# Deal 10

South Deals

None Vul

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

10  
11 2  
17

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



♠ A 9 7  
♥ A J T  
♦ K T 6  
♣ K Q 9 4

♠ Q 8 6 2  
♥ 8 3  
♦ 8 5 4 2  
♣ T 3 2

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

3NT by South

## Baker Leben 10

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

**Deal 11**

North Deals  
None Vul

♠ 9 6  
♥ J 9 7 6 4  
♦ T 6 2  
♣ J 5 2

16  
2 10  
12

♠ 7 5 2  
♥ A Q  
♦ A K 5 3  
♣ K T 8 3



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

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

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

3NT by North

**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 East'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



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

♠ 7 3 2  
♥ T 9 6 2  
♦ J 7  
♣ 8 6 5 2

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

3NT 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**

North Deals  
None Vul

♠ T 6 3  
♥ 5  
♦ 9 7 4 3 2  
♣ J 6 5 3

17  
1     10  
12

♠ K 9 5  
♥ A J 9  
♦ K Q 8 5  
♣ A T 2



♠ A 7 4  
♥ 7 6 3  
♦ A J 6  
♣ K 9 7 4

♠ Q J 8 2  
♥ K Q T 8 4 2  
♦ T  
♣ Q 8

**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.

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

3NT by South

# 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



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

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

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**

North Deals

None Vul

♠ 9  
 ♥ J T 9 7 6 5 2  
 ♦ T 8 6  
 ♣ 8 5

16  
 1      11  
 12

♠ 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

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

West

Pass

All Pass

North

1NT

3♣

East

2♠

Pass

South

2NT

3NT

**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 East'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.

3NT by South

**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



♠ A Q 9 6 4 2

♥ Q

♦ 6 5

♣ Q J T 9

♠ T 8 5

♥ A K 7

♦ K Q 7 3

♣ A 7 4

West

North

East

South

Dbl

All Pass

1NT

2♠

2♠X by South

Baker Leben 16

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

Since you trust your partner, you pass.



**Deal 17**

South Deals  
None Vul

♠ A T 9  
♥ A 3  
♦ K J T 7 5 4  
♣ J 9

8  
13 2  
17

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



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

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

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

4♥ by South

**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



♠ K Q 5

♥ T 8

♦ K Q 7 3

♣ A Q 7 4

♠ T 8 7 2

♥ J 7 6

♦ T 9 6

♣ 8 5 2

**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♣.

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

5♣ by North

**Deal 19**

West Deals

E-W Vul

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

10  
17 9  
4

♠ J T 5  
♥ K J 3  
♦ K T 8 6 4 3  
♣ Q



♠ Q 9 6 4 2  
♥ Q T 8  
♦ 2  
♣ 8 7 3 2

♠ A 8  
♥ 7 6 4  
♦ A J 9 7  
♣ T 9 6 4

West  
1NT

North  
2♦

East  
Dbl

South  
All Pass

2♦ X by North

**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. North is in serious trouble, and when the opponents make a mistake you should punish them.

# 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



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

♠ 7 6  
♥ J T 4  
♦ 8 4  
♣ J 9 6 5 4 2

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♠.