

Deal 1

North Deals	♠ 4 ♥ Q J 10 7 4 ♦ 7 5 2 ♣ K 6 4 2		
None Vul			
♠ 10 8 2	♠ K Q J 9 6 3		
♥ A 5 2	♥ 8		
♦ Q J 10 6 4	♦ 9 3		
♣ 10 9	♣ A J 8 7		
	♠ A 7 5		
6	♥ K 9 6 3		
7 11	♦ A K 8		
16	♣ Q 5 3		
West	North	East	South
	1 NT	2 ♠	2 NT
Pass	3 ♣	Pass	3 ♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	
3 ♥ by South			
Lead: ♠ 10			

When the opponents overcall your 1 NT opener a 2 NT bid by partner is lebensohl. You have been instructed to make a relay bid of 3 ♣, and you do so. Partner now bids 3 ♥. What do you say?

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The 3 ♥ bid is a sign-off, ala the lebensohl methods. So you pass.

South would be playing the hand in 3 ♥.

ROTATE to make North is the Declarer.

North plays 3 ♥. East leads the ♠ T. You win the first trick with dummy's ♠ A.

Make a Plan then

The bidding may have been tough but there is absolutely nothing to the play of this hand. You just have to pull trumps so none of your winners

get ruffed. So play a ♥ at trick 2. East wins and plays another ♠ which you ruff.

Continue with two more rounds of trumps. Then play to a ♣ honor. Unless the ♣s split 3-3 you will lose two tricks in the suit but your fourth ♣ can be ruffed with dummy's last trump. Of course you also have the ♦ loser which you couldn't avoid.

The purpose of the hand is to point out the advantages of using lebensohl convention when the opponents interfere. It got you to a makeable 3 ♥ contract.

And just look at the EW hands. They can easily make 3 ♣.

Deal 2
 South Deals
 None Vul

♠ 6 3 ♥ J 10 9 8 ♦ 10 8 5 4 3 ♣ 8 6	♠ K J 10 8 4 ♥ A 7 6 2 ♦ K ♣ 7 4 3	♠ A Q 5 2 ♥ Q 3 ♦ J 9 6 ♣ Q J 10 9
	N W E S	
	11 1 12 16	♠ 9 7 ♥ K 5 4 ♦ A Q 7 2 ♣ A K 5 2

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♣	Pass	2 ♦
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	3 NT
Pass	Pass	Pass	

3 NT by South
 Lead: ♥ J

Partner bids Stayman; with no 4-card Major you respond 2 ♦. Partner now bids 3 ♠. What do you bid?

Partner bids Stayman; with no 4-card Major you respond 2 ♦. Partner now bids 3 ♠. What do you bid?

Partner's bidding is crystal clear. He has described a hand with at least 11 points, which has 4 ♥s and 5 ♠s.

The decision is yours, and with no 8-card Major suit fit you decide on 3 NT.

On West's ♥ J opening lead East plays the ♥ Q.

Winner List: ♠ = 0 : ♥ = 2 : ♦ = 3 : ♣ = 2 :: Total = 7

You must establish some ♠ tricks which means you will be finessing through West. Since West can get the lead at most once in ♠s you should not hold up in ♥s. The problem with a hold up is that East may pocket one ♥ trick and then switch to ♣s, a suit in which you are no better off.

Win the ♥ K and play your ♠ 9, letting it ride. Suppose it holds the trick. Continue with another ♠, taken by East's ♠ Q.

East cannot hurt you. If he has a ♥ to play, then ♥s will have broken no worse than 4-2 and you will lose two ♥s and two ♠s.

If East plays any other suit you have a double stopper and can establish ♠ tricks before they can set up a winner of their own.

to see what might have happened if you held up.

East could play a ♣, knocking out one of your ♣ A K. When East won his first ♠ he would establish the ♣s, and when he took the second ♠ he could cash 2 ♣ tricks.

Deal 3

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K 4 2

♥ Q J 9 8 5 3

♦ Q 7 2

♣ Q

♠ A 10 9 8

♥ A K 2

♦ 9 5

♣ 8 7 4 2


 ♠ Q 7 3
 ♥ 10
 ♦ 10 8 6 4 3
 ♣ J 10 9 5

♠ J 6 5

♥ 7 6 4

♦ A K J

♣ A K 6 3

West North East South

2 ♥	2 NT	Pass	1 NT
Pass	3 ♥	Pass	3 ♣
Pass	Pass	Pass	3 NT

3 NT by South

Lead: ♥ Q

Partner's 2 NT is lebensohl, requesting that you bid 3 ♣. You obey and partner now bids 3 ♥. What do you say?

Partner's 2 NT is lebensohl, requesting that you bid 3 ♣. You obey and partner now bids 3 ♥. What do you say?

The cue-bid is Stayman, asking if you have 4 ♠s. However, since it was a DELAYED cue-bid it also shows stopper(s) in the opponent's overcalled suit. Since you do not have 4 ♠s you go ahead and bid 3 NT.

West naturally attacks in his suit, leading the ♥ Q.

There are several possibilities for extra winners. The ♦ Q might drop - or the finesse might work, providing one winner. The ♣s might split 3-2, giving you one extra winner. The ♠ honors might be split (or West might hold both) so the double finesse would give you two winners. Since your minor suit hopes require that BOTH of them work, your best bet is the double ♠ finesse.

You do not need to hold up on the ♥ because you will be finessing twice into East, and he cannot possibly have more than two ♥s, probably only one. Come to your hand with a ♠, play the ♠ J and let it ride. East wins the ♠ Q and plays another ♠. Win this one and finesse the ♠ again. When this finesse works you can return to your hand with a ♦ and repeat the finesse.

Even if East held both honors you would STILL have established one ♠ winner and would have the possibility of a ♦ finesse.

Deal 4

West Deals	♠ A 10 9
None Vul	♥ K Q 6 4
	♦ A 9 5 2
	♣ A 5
♠ K Q J 8 6 4	♠ 7 3
♥ 9 2	♥ J 10 8 5
♦ Q 8 7	♦ J 6
♣ 9 4	♣ Q 10 8 7 3



17	♠ 5 2
8 4	♥ A 7 3
11	♦ K 10 4 3
	♣ K J 6 2

West	North	East	South
2 ♠	Pass	Pass	2 NT
Pass	3 NT	Pass	Pass

Pass
3 NT by South
Lead: ♠ K

Partner's 1 NT overcall shows 15-18 points and guarantees a ♠ stop. With 11 points and no 4-card ♥ suit you say 3 NT.

The contract would be 3 NT played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 3 NT. East leads the ♠ K. Do you hold up or not?

You need just one more winner. It could come from a finesse of the ♣ J. It could come from a 3-3 ♥ split. It could come by establishing a fourth card in ♦s.

Most important for now is the ♠ lead? Do you hold up?

Yes you should hold up. In fact you might as well hold up twice since you aren't contemplating a throw-in of East. Holding up twice will protect you in the unlikely event that East made his 2 ♠ bid with a 5-card suit.

Both the ♥ possibility and the ♣ possibility will either work or not, so you can save them for later. Your highest percentage chance is the fourth ♦, but here you must be careful. You must try to establish the ♦s without allowing East to get the lead. It is actually pretty easy. Just play a small ♦ from your hand and when East plays low insert the ♦ T. West wins the ♦ J but cannot harm you with his return.

When the remaining ♦s fall you have established your ninth trick.

If he does that he hands you all four ♦ tricks!

Deal 5

South Deals

None Vul

♠ K Q 5
♥ K 10 4
♦ J 10 9 5
♣ J 7 4

10 7
15 8

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			1 NT
Pass	2 ♥	Pass	2 ♠
Pass	3 ♠	Pass	Pass
Pass			

3 ♠ by South
Lead: ♦ J

♠ J 9 8 6 4 3 ♥ 7 5 2 ♦ 6 2 ♣ A Q	♠ 7 ♥ Q J 9 6 3 ♦ Q 8 4 ♣ K 10 5 3
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W	N	E	S
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♠ A 10 2
♥ A 8
♦ A K 7 3
♣ 9 8 6 2

Partner's 2 ♥ bid is a transfer; you respond 2 ♠.
Partner now bids 3 ♠. What do you bid?

Partner's 2 ♥ bid is a transfer; you respond 2 ♠.
Partner now bids 3 ♠. What do you bid?

Partner tells you that he has only invitational strength, but has at least 6 ♠s. The ♠s are fine by you, but with only 15 HCP you decide to pass.

UhOh. Maybe you should have bid game.

If the ♠s are 2-2 there will be only one loser in that suit. And maybe the ♣ finesse will work.

Don't get too optimistic too early. If you play ♠ A and another ♠ you could go down. Remember that you only counted one ♥ loser - that means you MUST ruff a ♥ in your hand.

Win the ♦ lead and play ♥ A and another ♥ before you touch trumps.

After this there is nothing the defense can do to stop you ruffing one ♥ in your hand.

to see why this was necessary.

West would have taken the second ♠, then pulled your last ♠. When the ♣ finesse failed you would make only 8 tricks.

Deal 6
South Deals
None Vul

♠ 7 4
♥ A 10 9 8
♦ Q J 10 8
♣ J 8 3

17
8 4
11

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

3 NT by South
Lead: ♦ Q

♠ A 10
♥ K 7 4 3
♦ A 6 5 4
♣ A Q 5

N ♠ J 9 5 2
W ♥ Q J 5
E ♦ 9 2
S ♣ 10 9 7 4

♠ K Q 8 6 3
♥ 6 2
♦ K 7 3
♣ K 6 2

With 12 points and a 5-card Major you transfer partner to that Major. You bid 2 ♥. Partner bids 2 ♠. Now what do say next?

With 12 points and a 5-card Major you transfer partner to that Major. You bid 2 ♥. Partner bids 2 ♠. Now what do say next?

You must insist on game, but since partner could have a doubleton ♠ you do so by bidding 3 NT to give him the choice.

He chooses 3 NT by passing.

The contract would be 3 NT played by South.

To make North the declarer ROTATE.

North plays 3 NT. East leads the ♦ Q. Do you win the first trick or holdup?

A holdup wouldn't hurt you since East would retain the lead. But it probably wouldn't help you much either since you do have 2 stoppers in the suit. You obviously need to establish at least one more winner in ♠s so you won't have to depend on

the ♥ A being with West. Need it be said that ♥s is the suit you are worried about and West is the Danger hand? Let's say you win the first trick with dummy's ♦ K.

Suppose you play ♠ A, then ♠ K Q. If they split 3-3 you will be soooo happy because you will make at least T tricks. But if West shows out on the third ♠ you will be pretty happy because you can give up a ♠ to East and still make at least 9 tricks. But if East shows out on the third ♠ you could be in deep trouble. You would have to give West the lead to establish an extra ♠ winner, and he might very well lead through your ♥ K.

There is a great safety play to protect against a 4-2 ♠ split. Play a low ♠ from dummy and finesse the ♠ T. East may win with a doubleton ♠ J but you will still make the contract.

to see what really happens.

But visualize the ♠ J and ♠ 7 transposed. If you don't make the safety play it is true that the ♠ J will fall. BUT, West will still take the fourth ♠ and when he gets in he will return the ♥ Q.