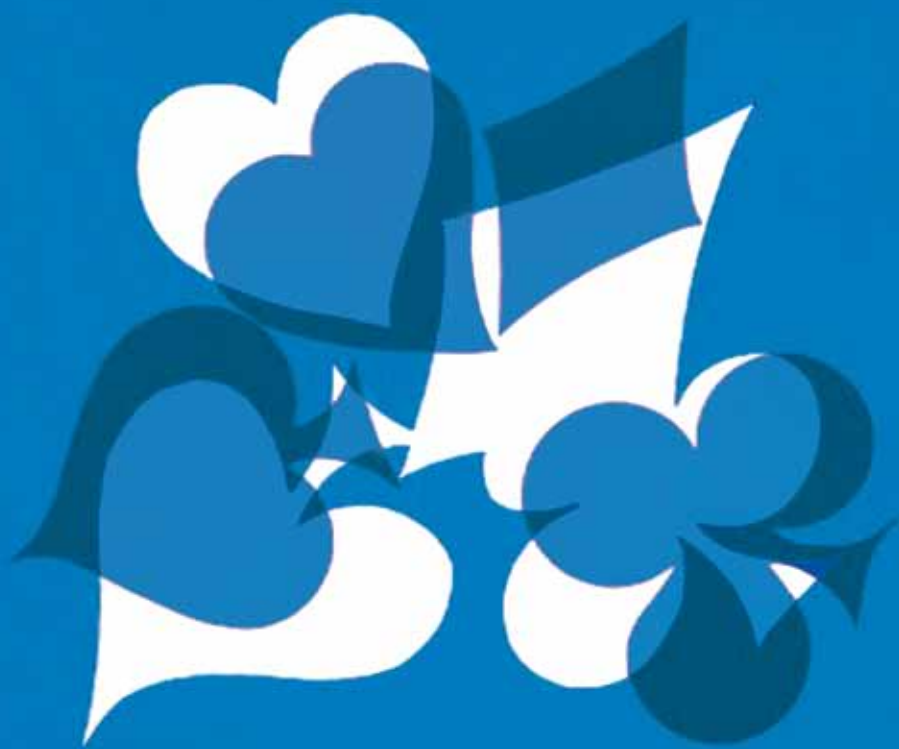


WINNING BRIDGE CONVENTIONS

LEBENSOHL

Patty Tucker



An Honors eBooklet from Master Point Press

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Stayman

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Texas Transfer

Smolen

Four-Suit Transfers

Three-level Responses to a 1NT Opening Bid

Three Spades over 2NT

Lebensohl

These booklets may be purchased as a single volume in digital or paper format under the title *Competitive Bidding*, one of eight books in Patty Tucker's Winning Bridge Conventions Series.

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Introduction

There are several different conventions that you can play in response to a one notrump opening bid or overcall. Conventions that will allow you to show:

- Weaker hands;
- Stronger high card point hands;
- More distributional hands;
- Hands with a four-card major;
- Hands with a five-card or longer major; and
- Hands with a six-card or longer minor.

There are tools that allow you to force the notrump opening bidder to become declarer, thus allowing responder to more fully describe their hand and conceal the stronger hand. They allow the opening lead to be made by the opening notrump bidder's left-hand opponent, in and of itself, a valuable advantage.

Some of those conventions and tools are discussed fully in this book. As you might expect, they are the conventions and tools I have found most useful.

Always remember that every time you add a convention you expect to lose some other bid AND that the additional conventions that you choose to adopt influence the rules of other conventions. You might ask, "Why would I do that? Why should I lose a

natural bid, to add an artificial bid?” The answer is simple...because it is valuable. As you work your way through this book you will find that the rules of the simplest and most common conventions – Stayman and Jacoby Transfers – will be adjusted as you add other conventions.

For example:

If you choose to adopt Smolen, then responder’s rebid after the initial Stayman bid, when he holds a five-card and a four-card major suit changes; or

If you choose to adopt Texas Transfers, then responder’s rebid after the initial Jacoby Transfer shows a different strength of hand; or

If you choose to adopt Four-Suit Transfers, then responder’s rebid after the initial Stayman bid will change on one specific type of hand.

As you add conventions to your toolbox, you and partner will need to decide which “tools” work best for you. What bids you are both willing to “lose” in order to better describe your hand when you decide to adopt different conventions.

I’ve included the conventions that I believe are worth the extra effort to learn and are worth the few bids that are lost.

Lebensohl

Lebensohl

Lebensohl was invented by George Boehm. It was created to avoid the confusion created when you (or your partner) open or overcall 1NT and the left-hand opponent bids a suit at the two-level. Lebensohl does not apply if the opening bid was 2NT or higher and does not apply after a rebid of 1NT. Lebensohl can be used regardless if the overcall is a natural bid or a conventional bid. It allows responder to the 1NT opener to describe (in most cases) a:

- Weak hand (0-7 HCPs) with one long suit; or
- An invitational hand (8-9 HCPs); or
- A game forcing hand (10+ HCPs).

It also allows responder, when they have game forcing values, to show a hand with or without a stopper in the suit bid by the opponents and to bid Stayman, also showing whether or not they have a stopper in the suit bid by the opponents. A very useful bid, but a little involved.

The following is not part of the Lebensohl convention but what I strongly suggest you play in these three particular auctions.

- If an opponent doubles 1NT, play that all systems are “on”. i.e. that 2♣ is Stayman, 2♦ is a Jacoby Transfer etc.
- If an opponent bids 2♣ and it is not a natural club bid, play that a double of 2♣ is Stayman and that systems are “on”.
- If an opponent bids a suit at the three-level, double is a Take-Out double.
- If an opponent bids anything other than an artificial 2♣ bid, a double by responder is a Penalty Double. If an opponent’s bid showed a two-suited hand then responder’s double is a showing the ability to penalize at least one of the opponent’s suits.

Lebensohl will be used in all other auctions. These are the components. After the left-hand opponent of the opening (or overcalling) 1NT bidder bids a suit at the two-level and responder to opener bids, then:

- Bids at the two-level are natural and non-forcing (weak);
- Bids at the three-level are natural and game forcing (strong);
- 2NT is an artificial bid relaying to 3♣;
- If responder could have bid their suit at the two-level, but instead bid 2NT (relaying to 3♣)

and then bid their suit at the three-level, then the three-level bid is invitational;

- A direct bid of 3NT show the values for game without a stopper in the opponent's suit;
- A bid of 2NT, followed by a rebid of 3NT show the values for game with a stopper in the opponent's suit;
- A direct cuebid of the opponent's suit is Stayman without a stopper in the opponent's suit; and
- A bid of 2NT, followed by a rebid of cuebidding the opponent's suit is Stayman with a stopper in the opponent's suit.

Let's look at each of these components, what they promise and explore opener's rebids. (The following examples assume that the overcall shows a natural, non-conventional, bid.)

The *'Winning Bridge Conventions'* Series

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Lebensohl

Bridge students quickly discover that ‘basic’ bidding’ will only get them so far. If they really want to improve, it is necessary to master a certain number of bidding conventions, and be prepared both to play them and play against them. This ebooklet covers the Lebensohl convention.



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