

-♠♥♦♣ AFTER PARTNER DOUBLES WEAK-2 ♠♥♦♣

Your LHO opens a Weak-2 and your Partner doubles. Your RHO passes and you must make a bid. You can have a wide variety of hands, ranging from almost zero points to a game forcing hand. The reason it is such a wide range is that Lefty is weak and Righty could also be weak or can be strong but can't support his partner's suit, and therefore is passing, hoping to win the contract at the 2-level.

Because your range can be so wide, a convention has been developed that breaks that range into 3 segments – Weak, Invitational and Game Forcing. It is called Lebensohl over Weak-2's. Here's how it works:

If you have between 0 and 7 HCP, you let your partner know by advancing 2NT. This is conventional and demands that partner rebid 3♣. Now you can pass if you have length in Clubs, or bid another suit at the 3-level. Your rebid is to play. Your partner is commanded to pass.

With a better hand, say 8 to 11 HCP, you bid your suit directly. Your partner will either pass or raise to game, depending on your combined strength.

With 12 or more HCP, things get a little more complicated. You will make a Game Forcing bid:

- Cue bid the opponent's suit. This promises at least one 4-card Major suit and denies a stopper in their suit.
- Bid 2NT and then Cue Bid over your partner's 3♣ rebid. This also promises at least one 4-card Major but promises a stopper in their suit.
- Bid 3NT. This denies a 4-card Major and denies a stopper in their suit.
- Bid 2NT and rebid 3NT over partner's forced 3♣ rebid. This denies a 4-card Major but promises a stopper in their suit.

Notice that the Game Forcing bids follow the typical Lebensohl pattern, where going through the 2NT sequence shows a stopper; and either Cue Bidding directly or bidding 3NT directly, denies a stopper. This is expressed as Slow Shows; Fast Denies.

Let's see how this works in real deal:

West opens 2♠ and your Partner doubles. East passes and this is your hand:

S	South
♠	J5
♥	QJ753
♦	1086
♣	A42

You have 8 HCP, but you have a few adjustments. You should deduct 1 point for the worthless doubleton Jack in their suit. But you can add that point back because of your 5-card Heart suit. You probably have a 9-card trump fit and that usually gives you an extra trick.

Using the Lebensohl convention, you bid 3 ♥ directly. Think about how much more information you provided your partner. Now he knows you have more than 7 points, but less than 12 points. Plus, you have at least four Hearts. He can easily judge whether he should stop in part score or raise to game.

Here North rebids 4 ♥ and West leads the ♠A, followed by the ♠K. You see this dummy.

N	North
♠	1062
♥	AK96
♦	KQ2
♣	KQ10

West Leads: ♠A

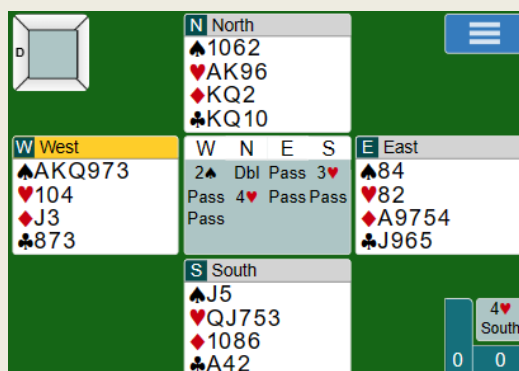
S	South
♠	J5
♥	QJ753
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You can see the dilemma your partner is in if he doesn't know you have an invitational hand. He is strong, with 17 HCP. But he is not strong enough to go to game if you have fewer than 9 HCP.

You count 2 Spade losers and the ♦A. As long as the ♦J is the top of a doubleton and not a singleton, you should easily make your contract.

You cover the Diamond lead, won by East's ♦A. He returns a Diamond, hoping for a ruff, but you win and draw trump. They split 2-2 and you claim your contract, making 4 ♥ on the nose.

This is the entire deal:



You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/2d8z77p4>, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. If you don't want to see the opponents hands, click on the white area in the South hand before you start.

Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own. <https://tinyurl.com/2p3hmb44>