

Lebensohl Practice Set A-Commentary

1. South bids 3C (invitational), showing 6+ clubs heading by the AQ or KQ. Partner will pass unless she holds a high club honor and a stop in the opponents suit, in which case, she will bid 3N. In this case, North passes.
2. South bids 3NT to deny a heart stop (“Direct Denies”). Since North also has no heart stop, it’s time to scramble. North bids 4C. South should try 4D and North should pass. Any plus should be a good board.
3. Same South hand as #2, but North has a heart stop and so is content to pass 3NT.
4. South’s strategy is to ask for spades and deny a heart stop. “Direct denies”, so South should cue 3H directly. North bids 3S, and South raises to game.
5. South’s strategy is to ask for spades and show a heart stop. To show the stop, South must go through the relay. Thus, South bids 2NT, North bids 3C, South cue-bids 3H (Stayman), and North bids 3NT, lacking 4S but knowing that South has a heart stop.
6. South’s strategy is to ask for spades and deny a diamond stop. “Direct denies”, so South cue bids 3D directly. North bids 3H and South bids 3N. North will pass, since he has a diamond stop and lacks four spades.
7. Same South hand as #6. Auction begins the same 1N-(2D)-3D-3H-3N. Now, since neither hand has a diamond stop, North will begin to scramble, bidding 4C. With such good clubs, South may bid 5C and will find the magic hand. Even if South passes 4C, the result should be above average, since many (who don’t play Lebensohl) will play in 3NT, each hoping that partner can stop diamonds.
8. South should seek to play 3H by bidding 2NT, then 3H after partner bids 3C.
9. South should bid 3H, showing 8 or more points and 5 or more hearts. North should bid 4H.