LEBENSOHL

The function of this convention is to establish a foundation for definitive auctions after an opponent has overcalled partner's 1NT opening. This system was devised by Ken Lebensold of New York city many years ago.
1. An immediate jump to 3NT shows game values but denies a stopper in RHO's suit.
The modern tendency is that SLOW shows but FAST denies.
1NT - 2♠ - 3NT means that you do NOT hold a spade stopper but 1NT -2♠ -2NT - P - 3♣ -P
3NT *shows a spade stopper.*

2. An immediate cue bid of RHO's suit functions as Stayman (although two clubs can be ignored where a double functions as Stayman).
asking partner to bid a four-card spade suit. 1NT - 2♥ - 3♥ discloses that responder holds game values and four spades but denies a spade stopper.
1NT - 2♥ - 2NT – P - 3♣ – P - 3♥ by responder is Stayman with a spade stopper.

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W	N	E	S	South holds:	a)	♠A	b)	♠QJ5
-	-	-	1♦			♥KQ107	or	♥A1096
P	1♠	P	2♥			♦AQ1083		♦AKQ54
						♣K98		♣J

W	N	E	S		c)	♠A986	d)	♠AKJ7
-	-	-	1♥			♥KQJ105	or	♥KQ10982
P	2♦	P	?			♦65		♦8
						♣K7		♣AJ

In a) & b) South should rebid 2♥ since he owns the strength and length for a reverse.

In the c) South must rebid the chunky five-card heart suit because he holds only 13 HCP.

A Flannery two diamond opening (or two hearts) showing 12-16 HCP with 5 hearts and 4 spades would work holding this hand.

In d) He reverses into spades with the intention of rebidding hearts next time to show 6-4 in the majors and a strong hand.
There is a combined 31 HCP (18 + 13) and the partnership is definitely in the slam zone.

There are two types of reverses one is strong and the other is distributional (6-5)   Responder will not know which type has been promised until opener's third call.

W	N	E	S	or	W	N	E	S

-	-	-	1♣		P	P	P	1♣
P	1♠	P	2♦		P	1♥	P	2♦
P	2♥	P	3♦		P	2♥	P	2NT

In the first example, opener has shown 6 clubs & 5 diamonds (a distributional reverse) not necessarily 17 HCP.

In the second example, he has promised 5 clubs and 4 diamonds with 17+ HCP, a spade stopper and undoubtedly heart shortness.

Responder will sometimes encounter problems when partner reverses and he holds a weak hand (6 or 7 HCP)

Accordingly, many partnerships have methods to put on the brakes after opener's reverse.

Responder's rebid of his suit at the two-level is neutral but forcing and promises at least a five-card suit.

The cheapest available bid which is either the fourth suit or 2NT reveals a weak hand

W	N	E	S
P	1♣	P	1♠
P	2♥	P	2NT is weak 6-7 HCP, denies five spades and opener must place the contract. Responder may pass any continuation by opener

W	N	E	S
P	1♣	P	1♥
P	2♦	P	2♠ South's two spade rebid *is weak & denies five hearts but 2NT would be natural and positive.*

The corollary is that other rebids by South such a 3♣, 3♦ or 2NT are game-forcing.

There is no such thing as a double reverse: 1♦ - 1♠ - 3♥
Three hearts could not be natural and functions as a splinter revealing 16-18 dummy points, four spades and a singleton heart.
Reverses by responder simply promise opening bid values and therefore are game-forcing.

JUMP SHIFTS by opener: This shows 19+ HCP, an unbalanced hand and is forcing to game since responder has promised 6 HCP.

N	S		N	S
1♦	1♠		1♥	1♠

3♣   3♦

North holds: ♠10 ♥KQ ♦AKJ764 ♣AK109   or   ♠AJ ♥AQJ83 ♦KQ1095 ♣K

Jump shifts by responder from an unpassed hand are often played as pre-emptive.
I prefer to play strong jump shifts so that 1♣ - P - 2♠ shows a strong hand with a solid suit:

♠AKJ1093 ♥AQ4 ♦K9 ♣J10 or a strong hand with good support for partner's suit:

♠AJ852 ♥KJ ♦Q4 ♣ AQ104.

Responder will delineate his hand type at his second turn. The strong jump shift is only available over a minor suit opening if your partnership employs Bergen Raises.

Jump shifts from a passed hand can be used as fit-showing bids: 1♦ - 2♥ with ♠102 ♥KQ873 ♦AJ98 ♣65

Quiz

1. | W | N | E | S |
   |---|---|---|---|
   | - | - | - | 1♦ |
   | P | 1♠ | P | ? |

What call would you make with each of the following:

a)	b)	c)	d)	e)	f)
♠KJ104	♠K8	♠2	♠7	♠65	♠9
♥AQ2	♥AKQ4	♥AJ8	♥AQJ53	♥KQ4	♥KJ3
♦AKJ63	♦KQ1097	♦AQJ105	♦KQJ974	♦AKJ1093	♦AKQ875
♣9	♣53	♣KQJ10	♣8	♣K5	♣A104

2. | W | N | E | S |
   |---|---|---|---|
   | | | | 1♣ |
   | P | 1♥ | P | ? |

What call would you make with each of the following?

g)	h)	i)	j)	k)	l)
♠AQJ7	♠4	♠A52	♠98	♠A105	♠Q9
♥J4	♥AK105	♥Q	♥Q96	♥1073	♥A4
♦AJ	♦KQ3	♦AKJ10	♦J1043	♦AQ6	♦KJ4
♣KQJ63	♣AQJ85	♣K10974	♣AKQJ	♣K987	♣KQJ982

3. | W | N | E | S |
   |---|---|---|---|
   | P | 1♦ | P | 1♥ |
   | P | 3♣ | P | ? |

What call would you make?

m)	n)	o)	p)	q)	r)
♠A94	♠653	♠1032	♠74	♠A1082	♠J6
♥109853	♥KQ842	♥AJ96	♥KJ10852	♥A974	♥KQJ10732
♦Q2	♦J97	♦4	♦J6	♦K865	♦54
♣J64	♣106	♣K8753	♣Q93	♣2	♣95

4.
W	N	E	S
		P	1♦
2♣	P	P	?

What action would you take with each of the following?

s)	t)	u)	v)	w)	x)
♠KQ109	♠K84	♠7	♠AJ	♠3	♠AQ98
♥J	♥AQ95	♥AKQ	♥K105	♥AKQ109	♥6
♦AQJ864	♦AJ1073	♦J10742	♦AKQ10842	♦AKJ976	♦KQ10872
♣A7	♣6	♣A1098	♣7	♣4	♣QJ

Answers

a) *4♣ as a splinter disclosing a singleton club (not the ace), 20 dummy points and four-card spade support. The next move is up to partner.*

b) *2♥ as a reverse showing 17+ HCP along with five diamonds and four hearts.*

c) *3♣ The jump shift reveals 19+ HCP with five diamonds and four clubs. If partner offers a diamond preference, you will advance to 3NT. Your hand is elevated by the solidity of the minors.*

d) *2♥ as a distributional reverse.*
Your plan is to bid hearts a second time to show 6-5 in the red-suits.

e) *3♦. The jump rebid discloses 16-18 HCP with a good six-card suit but is non-forcing.*

f) *3NT. The leap to 3NT promises a running diamond suit, a strong hand & spade shortness.*

g) *2♠. The jump shift is game-forcing showing 19+ HCP with five clubs & four spades.*

h) *3♠. This action is a splinter (one more than a jump shift) & shows 20 dummy points, a singleton spade & four-card heart support.*

i) *2♦. A reverse, promising 17+ HCP with 5 clubs & 4 diamonds.*

j) *2♥. The raise with 3 card support is better than rebidding 1NT with a doubleton spade. Partner should not assume that you own four-card support*

k) *1NT. This time you should try 1NT with the pancake pattern and stoppers in the unbid suits.*

l) *3♣. The jump rebid discloses 16-18 HCP and a strong six-card suit.*

m) *3NT. You are committed to game because of the jump shift.*
You hold a spade stopper and have no desire to play in a suit contract.
Without a spade stopper you would advance to 3♦ as a preference.

n) *3♦. Partner owns at least a five-bagger.*
If he rebids 3♥ showing three-card support, you will advance to the major suit game.
If he rebids 3NT, you will be content.

o) *4♣. The raise implies 5 card support and a slam is in view if partner owns a spade control.*

p)   *3♥. This action tends to show a six-card suit and you are hoping to find partner with a doubleton.*

q)   *4♦. The jump in diamonds conveys a good hand with slam interest.*

r)   *4♥. This action reveals a self-sufficient suit that will play opposite a singleton or void.*

s)   *2♠. The reverse shows a powerful hand with longer diamonds than spades.*

t)   *Double. You should re-open with a takeout double since you own good support for the unbid suits.*
You are not strong enough to consider a 2♥ which is a reverse.

u)   *Pass. You should be happy to defend a club partscore.*
Partner cannot hold much since he did not offer a negative double.
The opponents may own a spade fit.

v)   *3♣. This action functions as a Western Cuebid asking partner to bid 3NT with a club stopper.*
You are virtually guaranteeing 9 tricks provided partner can supply a club guard.
You promise a long & solid diamond suit with a good hand.
You would re-open with a double with support for the unbid suits.

w)   *4♥. This action shows that you are 6-5 in the red-suits with a strong hand.*
To bid any less risks missing a game or possible slam.
Partner will take a preference.

x)   *2♦. Rebid the six-card suit.*
This hand is not strong enough to reverse (2♠).
The club honours are likely without value.