

# THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC -SUMMER 2011- TORONTO - CANADA- KANTAR 4 )

Dir: South Vul: None	NORTH ♠ K J 10 ♥ K 9 8 6 ♦ A Q J ♣ 5 4 3		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	1 Heart
			Pass	2 NT	Pass	3 Heart
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ 7 6 5 2 ♥ 3 2 ♦ 10 6 2 ♣ K Q 10 9		EAST ♠ A 9 8 3 ♥ 10 4 ♦ K 9 8 4 ♣ A J 6	Opening Lead = ♣K (standout lead)			
	SOUTH ♠ Q 4 ♥ A Q J 7 5 ♦ 7 5 3 ♣ A J 6					

**Bidding commentary:** The 2NT response at least four cards in partner's major. It usually denies a singleton as splinter responses are available for those hand types. The 4♥ bid announces a minimum with no slam interest and usually no singleton.

**Defensive commentary:** As West, when East plays the ♣2 at trick one - in theory denying either the jack or ace - and declarer plays low, you must find a shift knowing South has the ♣A J. A diamond looks like the normal shift.

**Play Commentary:** As South, after correctly playing low at trick one, keep up the good work by playing high at trick two! Why? Count your tricks. You have five hearts, two diamonds (if you play the ace) two spades and a club for 10 tricks. Taking the diamond finesse is risking a safe contract for an overtrick. Say the finesse loses (Murphy's Law), and a club comes back. Suddenly you are slated to lose four tricks: two clubs, a diamond and a spade. By winning the ♦A, you can set up dummy's third spade for a club discard after drawing trumps. In other words, you have won the race to avoid a second club loser. Even playing matchpoints, rise with the ♦A West is more apt to shift to a diamond not looking at the king.