

THINKING BRIDGE

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The final installment in our card combinations set for this tournament has a familiar theme. Can you spot it?

Dir: East Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ J 5 4 ♥ K Q 4 ♦ 8 6 ♣ 9 7 5 3 2		West	North	East	South
					1 Diamond	X
			Pass	2 Club	2 Diamond	2 Spade
			Pass	3 Spade	Pass	4 Spade
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ 9 8 7 6 ♥ 8 5 3 ♦ 9 7 2 ♣ J 10 4		EAST ♠ K ♥ J 10 9 2 ♦ A K J 10 5 3 ♣ Q 8	Opening Lead = ♦2.			
	SOUTH ♠ A Q 10 3 2 ♥ A 7 6 ♦ Q 4 ♣ A K 6					

Bidding commentary: Even if you don't count the ♦Q, a very doubtful value on the bidding, you are strong enough to double and then bid your suit normally showing 16-18 high-card points with a five-card suit. Partner is strong enough to eke out a raise as the ♥K Q should fit in nicely with your heart holding, and the ♠J is not chopped liver. You decide to bid game.

Defensive commentary: After cashing two diamonds, East shifts to the ♥J.

Play commentary: You have already lost two diamond tricks and are sure to lose a club trick, so you have to bring in the spades for no losers with the king surely in the East hand. Nonetheless, you have to be careful of how you play the suit.

If East has four spades, your spots aren't good enough to pick them up as long as West covers the jack. What you have to concern yourself with is East having a singleton king. If you lead the jack you will lose your contract. You are blessed with two heart entries to dummy, allowing you to take two spade finesses, if necessary, so win the heart return in dummy and lead a low spade. If the king appears, draw trumps and you have 10 tricks. If the king does not appear, return to the dummy with a heart and repeat the finesse. This time you can lead a second low spade or the jack.