

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar
(From - NABC -Fall 2004 - Orlando - Florida -4)

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

You (West) lead the ♥2. East wins the first heart cheaply and cashes the ♥A K. Plan your defense.

Bidding commentary: East's 2♥ weak jump overcall is the equivalent of a weak two opening bid. In other words, it shows a presentable six-card suit (three honors or two honors with the 9 thrown in for good measure) and about 6-9 high-card points.

Lead commentary: You make the obvious singleton lead (some people love singleton leads so much that they lead them even when they don't have them).

Play commentary: Partner wins the first heart as cheaply as possible (playing the 7 if dummy plays low) and cashes the ♥K.

It is clear that you will be able to make two discards on the ♥K A. When contemplating discards, always consider discarding from your shortest suit – in this case, diamonds. You can see that you can discard both the ♦K Q. Should you? Yes. Why not? If you discard both diamonds, you can ruff the diamond return and defeat the contract. If you keep your diamonds and discard clubs, you may or may not take a trick in diamonds. (As it happens, you won't because declarer has a singleton.)

Point to remember: When partner is cashing a number of tricks, allowing you to make a discard or two, consider discarding from your short suit. If you can void yourself in a suit while partner still has the lead, you can then ruff partner's return in your now-void suit.

Not a bad idea.