

THINKING BRIDGE

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We continue with our tour of the world of card combinations. This deal illustrates another important one.

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

Bidding commentary: Normal. South's 1♠ response shows five or more spades. With four spades, South would have made a negative double. The North hand is too strong to raise to 2♠, too weak to jump to game and 3♠, not forcing, is just right. By the way, North should not count a point for the ♥J. South has enough to bid 4♠.

Lead commentary: West leads low from three low cards in an unsupported suit. Had West supported hearts, the proper lead would be the ♥7. Using this method, East knows when partner does leads high in an unsupported suit it must be from shortness.

Defensive commentary: As East, looking at that dummy, you must play partner for the ♣A and try to develop two diamond tricks before the ♣A is dislodged. The proper card to attack with is the queen. When the dummy to your right has the jack and you have the jack surrounded with the queen and the 10 plus the ace, attack with your second highest card, the queen.

Notice the repercussions. Declarer can do no better than win with the king, draw trumps and drive out the ♣A. After partner wins the ♣A and returns a diamond, you have the A-10 over the jack for two diamond tricks. Down one all because of your "surrounding" play of the ♦Q at trick two.