

## THINKING BRIDGE - - By Eddie Kantar

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Dir: South Vul: E-W	NORTH ♠ J53 ♥ AJ82 ♦ 75 ♣ KJ65		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	1 Club
			1 Spade	X	Pass	3 Club
			Pass	5 Club	All Pass	
WEST ♠ Q10974 ♥ 74 ♦ AKJ10 ♣ 73		EAST ♠ 82 ♥ Q1095 ♦ Q98642 ♣ 8	Opening Lead = ♦A (ace from A-K at trick one versus suit contracts).			
	SOUTH ♠ AK6 ♥ K63 ♦ 2 ♣ AQ10942					

**Bidding commentary:** West's overcall is normal, North's double is negative, showing at least four hearts and 7 or more high-card points. It is an unlimited response but partner assumes 7-8 HCP for the time being.

**Defensive commentary:** East encourages in diamonds and West continues with a high diamond, which South ruffs.

**Play commentary:** As South, you have lost a diamond and are looking at a likely spade loser, as well as a possible heart loser. Is there a safe way to bring this home? Yes, assuming West has at least five spades for the vulnerable overcall, you have a 100% play available.

Draw trumps, play the ♠A and ♠K, leaving East with no spades. Now play the ♥K and a second heart, covering whatever heart West plays. Because of the power of the ♥8, East will be endplayed upon winning the trick. Say West plays low. You stick in the 8, East wins but cannot return a heart into the A-J without giving you a trick. If East exits with a diamond, you can discard your losing spade and ruff in dummy.

Say West plays the ♥9 or ♥10 on the second lead of the suit. You cover with the jack, East wins the queen, but again the power of the ♥8 prevents East from safely returning a heart from his remaining 10-x or 9-x into the A-8. This line of play is foolproof so long as West has at least five spades.

This is yet another example of using the bidding to guide you in the the play and defense. This time it was in the play.