

**THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar**  
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Dir: North Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ A7532 ♥ A104 ♦ K6 ♣ J98		West	North	East	South
			--	1 Spade	2 Club	2 Diamond
			Pass	2 Spade*	Pass	3 Heart*
			Pass	4 Diamond**	Pass	4 Heart
			Pass	5 Heart***	Pass	6 Heart
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ KJ86 ♥ Q32 ♦ 104 ♣ 10732		EAST ♠ 104 ♥ 96 ♦ 973 ♣ AKQ654	Opening Lead = ♣2			
	SOUTH ♠ Q9 ♥ KJ875 ♦ AQJ852 ♣ Void					

\* Not the kind of suit you like to rebid, but North has no second choice.

\*\* A heart raise at this point (direct raise of a second suit) would show four hearts, likely with six spades.

\*\*\* Looks like the right hand (fitting honors in partner's long suits), facing 11 red cards.

Opening lead: ♣2, East plays the ace. Plan the play.

**Solution**

You have a spade loser and a possible heart loser, but your spade loser can be ruffed in dummy! All you need is a 3-2 trump break. Ruff the opening lead, play the ♥A and ♥K. Assuming no queen has appeared and the suit divided 3-2, start playing diamonds, discarding spades from dummy. Whether an opponent ruffs in or not, you can discard four spades from dummy and eventually ruff your ♠Q in dummy.

**The bottom line:** With high honors in partner's long suits, bid aggressively.

Finesses in the trump suit can be an optical illusion when a trump is needed in dummy to ruff a loser in dummy's long suit! Of course, this presupposes that you can rid dummy of enough cards in that long suit on your own long side suit.

When partner leads a suit in which you have the A-K-Q and dummy has length in the suit, take the first trick with the ace, not the queen. If declarer ruffs, partner will know you have the A-K-Q. If the ace lives, continue with the queen. If declarer ruffs partner will know you started with the A-K-Q. By playing the ace first, you do not give away the strength of your suit. The original play of the queen (which shows the A-K-Q unless partner has underled the ace!) makes it easier for the declarer to place the other missing honor cards.