

**THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar**  
 (From - NABC -SPRING - 2014 - DALLAS = TX - 6 )

Dir: South Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ A86 ♥ K10753 ♦ 86 ♣ AJ5		South	West	North	East
			1 Diamond	Pass	1 Heart	Pass
			2 NT	Pass	4 NT*	Pass
			5 Club**	Pass	5 NT***	Pass
			6 NT****	All Pass		
WEST		EAST				
	SOUTH ♠ K109 ♥ A9 ♦ AK42 ♣ KQ92					

- \* Inviting South to bid 6NT - a real stretch given that you show 18-19.
- \*\* Acceptance showing four clubs in case partner also has four clubs.
- \*\*\* Not forcing. Showing a minimum slam try (no kidding).
- \*\*\*\*'I'm not letting you off the hook.'

You are playing IMPs. West leads the ♦Q despite your opening of 1♦. East plays the ♦7. Plan the play.

**Solution**

With eight top tricks outside of hearts, the suit you must develop, you need to play hearts to your best advantage for *four tricks*. The best play with this combination is to lead low from dummy and insert the 9. You score four heart tricks anytime the suit breaks 3-3 or East has J-x, Q-x, or Q-J-x-x. Not a bad parlay. The full deal:

Dir: South Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ A86 ♥ K10753 ♦ 86 ♣ AJ5	
WEST ♠ J75 ♥ J842 ♦ QJ10 ♣ 864		EAST ♠ Q432 ♥ Q6 ♦ 9753 ♣ 1073
	SOUTH ♠ K109 ♥ A9 ♦ AK42 ♣ KQ92	

**The bottom line**

After partner makes an invitational raise to 4NT, a new suit by the opener is natural, it is not some sort of response to a non-existent Blackwood bid.

At notrump (or suit), count your sure tricks outside of the suit you must develop so you will know how many tricks you need in your main suit.

With K-10-x-x-x facing A-9 doubleton, the best play for four tricks is to lead low to the 9.

Similarly, with A-10-x-x-x facing K-9 doubleton, the best play for four tricks is to lead low to the 9.