

THINKING BRIDGE - - By **Eddie Kantar**
 (From - NABC -SPRING - 2014 - DALLAS - 9)

Dir: West Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ A432 ♥ J32 ♦ Q3 ♣ A1075		West	North	East	South
			Pass	Pass	Pass	1 Spade
			X	2 NT*	Pass	3 Spade
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ 86 ♥ AKQ5 ♦ J1095 ♣ J92		EAST ♠ K7 ♥ 854 ♦ 7642 ♣ K843	Opening Lead = ♥Q (queen from A-K-Q).			
	SOUTH ♠ QJ1095 ♥ 1097 ♦ AK8 ♣ Q6					

The bidding is normal. North shows a limit raise, keeping in mind that unsupported jacks and queens are frequently worthless, as is the ♦Q in this hand.

Now the defense: East easily recognizes the lead being from the A-K-Q with the jack in dummy, so he gives count: the ♥4 playing standard, the ♥8 playing upside down.

When West cashes a second heart, East gives suit preference for clubs. However, a stubborn West may be tempted to shift to the ♦J.

Let's take a look at either shift.

If West shifts to a club, South is in trouble.

South knows that West, a passed hand, started with 9 high-card points in hearts, so he cannot have a side-suit king. The best South can do is duck the club and later play the ♠Q to the ace, hoping the king falls.

Not this time; down one. However, if West shifts to a diamond, South wins the queen, cashes the ♦A and ♦K, discarding a club, and then leads the ♠Q to the ace hoping to drop the king. No luck.

But wait! South exits with a spade to East, who wins and must lead a club from the king or give South a ruff-sluff by leading a diamond. Making three! Not too many pairs would defeat 3♠ on this deal against a strong declarer without a club shift at trick four.