

**THINKING BRIDGE** -- By **Eddie Kantar**  
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Long-suit establishment and responding to a 2♣ opener

|  |   |  |                   |         |      |         |
|--|---|--|-------------------|---------|------|---------|
| Dir: East<br>Vul: Both                               | NORTH<br>♠ Q 5 2<br>♥ A 7 6 4 3<br>♦ A 6<br>♣ 9 6 4 |  | West              | North   | East | South   |
|  |   |  | --                | --      | Pass | 2 Club  |
|  |   |  | Pass              | 2 Heart | Pass | 2 Spade |
|  |   |  | Pass              | 3 Spade | Pass | 4 NT    |
|  |   |  | Pass              | 5 Spade | Pass | 7 Spade |
|  |   |  | All Pass          |         |      |         |
| WEST<br>♠ 10 8 6<br>♥ J 9<br>♦ Q J 9 8 4<br>♣ Q 10 5 |   | EAST<br>♠ 9<br>♥ Q 10 8 5<br>♦ 10 7 3 2<br>♣ 8 7 3 2 | Opening Lead = ♦Q |         |      |         |
|  | SOUTH<br>♠ A K J 7 4 3<br>♥ K 2<br>♦ K 5<br>♣ A K J |  |                   |         |      |         |

**Bidding commentary:**

As North, your 2♥ response is natural and positive. Some play a positive response guarantees two of the top three honors, a bit restrictive. Agreeing the trump suit at the three level (3♠) facilitates slam bidding. Also, two aces plus the queen of partner's suit facing any sane 2♣ opening should be more than enough for slam. 4NT was Roman Key Card Blackwood (RKCB) and the 5♠ response shows two key cards (the four aces and the ♠K are key cards) plus the ♠Q. A 5♥ response also shows two keycards but denies the ♠Q. As South, though you can only count 12 sure tricks, heart establishment plus at worst the club finesse make bidding a grand slam odds on.

**Play commentary:**

As South, in order to avoid the club finesse, you must try to set up at least one of dummy's hearts for a club discard. When setting up a long suit in dummy, keep as many "late" entries to dummy as possible. Win the ♦K and play the ♠A and ♠K. Notice that the ♦A and the ♠Q remain as late dummy entries. Next, cash the ♥K and play a heart to the ace. Ruff a heart with the ♠J in case West is out of hearts. He is! There is still one higher heart outstanding - you are counting the suit, right?. Not to worry, you have two dummy entries. Cross to the ♠Q, drawing South's last trump and ruff a heart. Don't look now, but you have established dummy's fifth heart for your 13th trick! Cross to the ♦A and discard the ♣J on the long heart. Well done.

When setting up a long suit, use trump entries before side suit entries (♠Q before ♦A).