

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC -FALL 2009 - SAN DIEGO - 8)

Dir: North Vul: None	NORTH		West	North	East	South
	K 4 3 2			Pass	Pass	1
	K J 7 6		Pass	1 ♥	Pass	1 NT
	J 10 5		All Pass			
	10 3					
WEST		EAST	Opening Lead = 5			
Q 9		J 10 8 6				
10 4 3		Q 9 5				
K 7 6		A 8 2				
K 8 7 5		Q J 9				
2						
	SOUTH					
	A 7 5					
	A 8 2					
	Q 9 4 3					
	A 6 4					

Bidding commentary: Bidding commentary: With 4-4 in the majors, the proper response to a minor-suit opening bid is 1♥. With 5-5 in the majors, the proper response is 1♠. Opener's 1NT rebid is automatic with this distribution. East has the points to make a passed-hand takeout double (9-11), but not the right distribution. When the opponents have bid two suits, a passed-hand takeout double promises at least four cards in each of the unbid suits, more often than not 4-5 in the unbid suits (four in the unbid major, five in the unbid minor).

Defensive commentary: Defensive commentary: If dummy plays low at trick one, East plays the 9, the lowest equal. If the 10 is played, East covers with the jack, again the lower equal. If declarer ducks the first trick, with two cards remaining, East returns the Q, the higher card. Under the queen, West plays the 2, his lowest club showing exactly five clubs.

Play commentary: Play commentary: As South, after winning the third club, you should know from the way both East and West are playing clubs that West remains with two winning clubs. In addition, the defenders have the A K or a total of six sure tricks when next on lead. You, on the other hand, have five sure tricks, the ace-kings of both majors and the A. You need two extra tricks and your best bet is to go after them in diamonds, a suit where you have to lose two tricks anyway. Drive out the A and K, let them take their clubs, but you make your contract. If you take the heart finesse and it loses you not only lose the six aforementioned tricks, but the ♥Q as well. The heart finesse is not necessary. It is important to grasp the concept of establishing tricks in a suit or in suits that have inevitable losers so as not to increase their trick count.