

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar
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Dir: North Vul: E-W	NORTH ♠ 5 4 ♥ QJ10 ♦ AQ7 ♣ QJ1082		West	North	East	South
				1Club	1 Spade	1 NT
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ 86 ♥ 7632 ♦ 10986 ♣ AK		EAST ♠ AJ1097 ♥ AK4 ♦ 53 ♣ 764	Opening Lead = ♠ 8			
	SOUTH ♠ KQ32 ♥ 985 ♦ KJ4 ♣ 953					

The bidding is normal and West's lead figures to be from a doubleton. With three low spades in an unsupported suit, the proper lead is low and with a singleton, West might have led something else.

In any case, East should try to preserve communication with West's hoped-for second spade by playing the ♠9 at trick one. Assuming South wins and plays a club, West wins and plays that important second spade that allows East to win and drive out West's remaining spade honor.

Not so fast. Assume East does just that. Now a second club is led and West is in again. Now West has a problem. If West shifts to a heart everything will turn out fine because East has the top two hearts. But what if East had the ♦K and the ♥A? Now it is necessary to shift to a diamond to beat the hand.

The answer is for East to make things easy for West by leading the ♥K before driving out West's remaining spade stopper. Now it is easy for West to lead a heart upon winning the second club. Notice that East led the ♥K from the A-K, the proper card to lead after trick one with that holding.