

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar

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Dir: West Vul: E-W	NORTH ♠ 1098 ♥ 763 ♦ KJ9 ♣ KQ109		West	North	East	South
			Pass	Pass	Pass	1 Spade
			Pass	2 Spade	All Pass	
WEST ♠ J72 ♥ AKJ4 ♦ 765 ♣ J54		EAST ♠ 43 ♥ Q92 ♦ AQ102 ♣ 8763	Opening Lead = ♥A			
	SOUTH ♠ AKQ65 ♥ 1085 ♦ 843 ♣ A2					

Neither East nor West has enough to stick their nose into the auction at this vulnerability... or any vulnerability for that matter.

When partner leads the ace from ace-king, the vast majority of the time third hand gives attitude.

Count and suit preference signals are possible, but exceptional.

Normally, third hand encourages with a doubleton or the queen. However, if third hand badly wants a switch to another suit more than a continuation, third hand makes a discouraging signal. It only hurts for a little while and it happens to be one of the big secrets to accurate attitude signaling.

Assuming East has made a quarter turn of her neck to the right, she will notice that she is sitting over dummy's ♦K J 9 with the ♦A Q 10 2, making a diamond shift more than desirable. Accordingly, South discourages at trick one. And how will North know what switch South has in mind?

West will also make a quarter turn of the neck, this time to the left, and figure out that diamonds, not clubs, is the suit partner must want and switches to a diamond. East wins and returns a heart, West cashes a second and third heart and leads a second diamond. East cashes a second and third diamond and leads a fourth diamond, promoting West's ♠J for the defenders' seventh trick! Down two! Beautiful.