

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar
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Dir: South Vul: E-W	NORTH ♠ Q52 ♥ K76 ♦ AKQ108 ♣ J6		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	1 Heart
			2 Heart	3 Diamond	Pass	3 Heart
			Pass	4 Heart	All Pass	
WEST ♠ AKJ64 ♥ 832 ♦ -- ♣ Q10985		EAST ♠ 107 ♥ 54 ♦ J9652 ♣ 7432	Opening Lead = ♠ A.			
	SOUTH ♠ 983 ♥ AQJ109 ♦ 743 ♣ AK					

West's 2♥ is the Michaels cuebid, showing at least five spades plus five or six cards in one of the minors. The range is 7-11 HCP or 16+ high-card points. With 12-15 HCP, bid both suits starting with the higher ranking. It should be noted that these two-suited hands can be upgraded with strong intermediate spot cards and downgraded with few if any intermediates.

Some 7-point hands might be too weak to use Michaels and some 11 point hands might be too strong. Ditto with the other ranges. Intermediates matter.

If East makes a minimum response to a Michaels cuebid, say 2♠ in this example, West passes with the minimum range and bids on with 16+ HCP. East can ask for West's minor by bidding 2NT. Here it is pretty obvious that the other minor is clubs.

West starts with the ♠A and ♠K, noticing East's play of the ♠10 and the ♠7, a high-low showing a doubleton. Before rushing to judgment and leading just any old spade, the spade that West leads should be suit preference!

In this case, West is desperate to have a diamond returned, so he returns the ♠J, his highest remaining spade. East ruffs and, though it may kill him, he had better return a diamond.

Incidentally those 12-15 point hands that don't cuebid, but bid both suits, are called "tweeners" because the range is in between the other two Ranges.