

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar
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Dir: West Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ A432 ♥ J32 ♦ Q3 ♣ A1075		West	North	East	South
			Pass	Pass	Pass	1 Spade
			x	2 NT	Pass	3 Spade
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ 86 ♥ AKQ6 ♦ J1095 ♣ J92		EAST ♠ K7 ♥ 854 ♦ 7642 ♣ K843	Opening Lead = ♥Q (queen from A-K-Q).			
	SOUTH ♠ QJ1095 ♥ 1097 ♦ AK8 ♣ Q6					

The bidding is normal. North shows a limit raise, keeping in mind that unsupported jacks and queens are frequently worthless, as is the ♦ Q in this hand

Now the defense: East easily recognizes the lead being from the A-K-Q with the jack in dummy and gives count: the 4 playing standard, the 8 playing upside-down.

When West cashes a second heart, East gives suit preference for clubs. However, a stubborn West may be tempted to shift to the ♦ J after cashing the third heart.

Let's take a look at either shift. If West shifts to a club, South is in trouble.

South knows that West, a passed hand, started with 9 high-card points in hearts, has the ♦ J for 10, and cannot have a side-suit king. The best South can do is duck the club and later play the ♠ Q to the ace, hoping the king falls. Not this time - down one.

However, if West shifts to a diamond, South wins the queen, cashes the ♦ A and ♦ K, discarding a club, and then leads the ♠ Q to the ace hoping to drop the king. No luck, but wait! South exits a spade to East, who wins and must lead a club from the king or give South a ruff-sluff by leading a diamond. Making three!

Not too many pairs would defeat 3♠ on this layout against a strong declarer unless West shifts to a club at trick four