

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

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

Bidding commentary: South's jump to 3♣ is strong. When the bid to the right is weak (2♣), a jump by next hand is strong. When the bid to the right is strong, a jump by next hand is weak.

Defense commentary: East plays the ♣J at trick one to alert partner of a club sequence headed by the jack. It may be important for West to know this. West may want to underlead the ♣Q to get East in to lead another suit. One never knows.

Play commentary: With four possible losers in the minors, this contract depends upon the heart finesse. And if the finesse works, it has to be *repeated*. If South draws trumps and *then* takes the heart finesse, even though it works, South cannot get back to his hand to repeat the finesse without surrendering the lead. Once on lead, East-West can take three diamonds and a club. How much easier to take the heart finesse at trick two and *then* draw trumps, ending in the South hand. Now the heart finesse can be repeated safely.

In order to make entry-conserving plays, you must learn to project the play forward. When you have a repeatable finesse possibility, you should ask yourself: If the finesse works, do I have a convenient way of immediately returning to the facing hand to repeat the finesse? The answer here is to use a spade from dummy to get back to your hand to repeat the finesse. No law states that you have to draw trumps early when you need your trump suit for communications.