

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

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Dir: South Vul: E - W	NORTH ♠ A Q 5 4 ♥ 6 4 ♦ 9 8 7 6 ♣ A J 8		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	1 Heart
			X	XX	2 Club	2 Diamond
			Pass	Pass	3 Club	3 Diaond
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ J 9 8 6 ♥ A J ♦ A 10 5 2 ♣ K 4 3		EAST ♠ K 10 3 ♥ 10 9 7 5 ♦ — ♣ Q 10 9 7 6 5	Opening Lead = ♣3.			
	SOUTH ♠ 7 2 ♥ K Q 8 3 2 ♦ K Q J 4 3 ♣ 2					

Bidding commentary: Your 2♦ bid is the key bid in the auction. After partner redoubles and you then bid a lower-ranking second suit or repeat your original suit before partner has a second chance to bid, you are describing a minimum unbalanced opening bid. In the case of bidding a second suit (2♦), you are showing 5-5, possibly 6-5 or 5-6, with 10-12 HCP. With stronger distributional hands (15+ HCP), jump immediately. With 13-14 HCP and a distributional hand, pass first, confirming a decent opening bid, and then show your unbalanced distribution. As South, you clearly have enough to compete to 3♦, and North, knowing that you have a minimum, should be content with that contract and not even think of bidding 3NT!

Play commentary: As South, win the ♣A and lead a heart to the king (the higher equal when leading up to equal honors in the closed hand for deceptive purposes) and ace. If West wins and continues with the ♣K, ruff, cash the ♥Q and lead a low heart in line with the important general principle of establishing a long, relatively weak side suit, before drawing trumps. The most the defenders can take is two diamonds, the ♥A and the ♠K.

1. After an opening bid, a takeout double, and a redouble, if the opener bids a second suit or repeats the original suit at a minimum level before the redoubler has a chance to bid, opener shows a weak distributional hand.

2. As declarer, when leading up to one of several equal honors, play the higher or highest for deceptive purposes. This also applies when finessing or taking a trick.