

**THINKING BRIDGE** -- By Eddie Kantar  
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Dir: South Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ K 10 6 5 ♥ A J 9 4 ♦ Q ♣ Q J 3 2		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	1 South
			Pass	4 Diamond	Pass	6 Spade
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ 8 4 ♥ 7 2 ♦ K J 9 3 2 ♣ 10 9 8 7	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2007	EAST ♠ 7 2 ♥ K Q 6 ♦ 10 8 7 6 5 4 ♣ 6 4	Opening Lead = ♣10			
	SOUTH ♠ A Q J 9 3 ♥ 1 0 8 5 3 ♦ A ♣ A K 5					

**Bidding commentary:** North's leap to 4♦ is a "splinter" jump. It shows opening-bid strength, primary spade support (four or more cards) and, most important, a singleton in the jump suit.

Splinter jumps often lead to slams. South knows that North, who has opening bid values, must have heart values because South has everything else! A double of 4♦ by East would be a lead directing double and would show diamond strength, not necessarily length, perhaps K-Q-x or K-J-x.

**Lead commentary:** The club lead is normal, but only a heart lead defeats this contract.

**Play commentary:** There are losers in only one suit, hearts. Whenever there are losers in only one suit, it behooves declarer to try to strip the hand (remove all of the opponents' safe exit cards) before attacking the critical suit.

The play should go like this: South wins the opening lead, draws trumps and plays three more rounds of clubs, discarding a heart (clubs are now stripped). Declarer returns to the ♦A, stripping that suit, and runs the ♥8 into East's queen. (Defenders normally win tricks with the lower equal.)

This leaves East with a choice of two uncomfortable options. East can lead a heart into the A-J and lose a heart trick or exit with a diamond, giving declarer a ruff and sluff — and also lose a heart trick. If a diamond is returned, South, with two hearts in the closed hand and three in dummy, discards from the short heart hand and ruffs in the long heart hand. Declarer has the rest with the ♥A and high trump. If the hand is not stripped before hearts are played, East will have safe exit cards upon winning the ♥Q and will wind up taking two heart tricks