

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar
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Dir: West Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ 7 4 ♥ K 7 6 ♦ K Q 4 3 ♣ K Q 10 5		West	North	East	South
			Pass	1 Diamond	Pass	1 Spade
			Pass	1 NT	Pass	4 Spade
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ 3 ♥ Q 10 8 2 ♦ 10 7 6 5 ♣ A 9 7 6	July 26 th 2012	EAST ♠ Q 9 8 2 ♥ A J 9 ♦ J 9 8 ♣ J 8 3	Opening Lead = ♥2.			
	SOUTH ♠ A K J 10 6 5 ♥ 5 4 3 ♦ A 2 ♣ 4 2					

Bidding commentary: Some open 1♦ with 4-4 in the minors, others 1♣. I like 1♦ unless the clubs are much stronger. With 4-4 in the unbid suits, West has the right distribution to make a passed-hand takeout double of 1♠ but is not strong enough. A passed-hand takeout double usually shows 9-11 high-card points, possibly 8, with two aces and a singleton in opener's suit.

Lead commentary: Lacking an honor sequence, leading low from Q-10-x-x is a relatively attractive choice of opening leads.

Defensive commentary: Assuming dummy plays low at trick one, West inserts the jack. When dummy has an honor and third hand has a higher and a lower honor, the lower honor is played. If East guesses to return a club, rather than a diamond, West wins and fires back the ♥Q, and the defenders take the first four tricks.

Play commentary: Given the heart lead, declarer assumes East has the ♥A and plays low from dummy. Aces are seldom underled against suit contracts at trick one. If East wins the jack and shifts to a diamond, South has been given a reprieve. (A club shift followed by a second heart defeats the contract still born.) South plays three top diamonds, discarding a heart, and then a spade to the jack. After this holds, declarer leads a club and eventually gets to dummy with a club to take a second spade finesse. Lesson: With A-K-J-10-x-x facing x-x, take two finesses. Do not play a high honor first. If a high honor is played, you can no longer pick up Q-x-x-x onside.

However, with A-K-J-10-x facing x-x-x, a high honor should be played first because two finesses are still available