

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar
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Dir: South Vul: N-S	NORTH ♠ A Q 8 2 ♥ K J 6 3 ♦ Q 4 3 ♣ A 3		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	2 Heart
			X	4 Heart	All Pass	
WEST ♠ K J 10 9 ♥ 7 ♦ K 10 9 2 ♣ K Q 10 9	28 th July 2007	EAST ♠ 5 4 3 ♥ 8 5 ♦ A 8 7 ♣ J 7 5 4 2	Opening Lead = ♠K.			
	SOUTH ♠ 7 6 ♥ A Q 10 9 4 2 ♦ J 6 5 ♣ 8 6					

Bidding commentary: South has a “picture” weak two-bid. South has a strong suit with a normal range of 6-9 high-card points. Weak two-bids have an actual range of 5-6 to 10 HCP. But a 5- or 10-point weak two-bid is atypical. North is strong enough to raise to game. West has a picture perfect takeout double of 2♥: Opening bid strength plus heart shortness. West needs another ace to double 4♥, which also would be for takeout.

Defensive commentary: Assuming dummy takes the first trick with the ♣A, East makes an encouraging signal to show the jack.

Play commentary: As declarer, you can see that the opponents have the ♦A and ♦K, and the suit wasn't led.

Translation: West doesn't have both honors. Given the bidding, the diamond honors are almost certainly split. Going further: If East has a diamond honor, West surely has the balance of the missing HCP for the double. Given this ugly diamond position, the idea is to force the opponents to lead the suit first. In order to do that, the hand must be stripped before exiting with a club, an equal-length suit. Win the club lead, draw trumps, lead a spade to the queen, cash the ♠A, ruff a spade, enter dummy with a trump, ruff dummy's last spade and exit with a club.

Defensive commentary: When thrown in with a club, the defense needs three diamond tricks. If West wins the club, West must hope East has the ♦A J x. If East wins the club, East must hope West has the ♦K J 10, so he will lead a low diamond. As it happens, South has the ♦J, so there is no happy ending for East-West.