

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar

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

Bidding commentary: North's leap to 4♦ is a splinter jump showing a singleton diamond, strong spade support plus opening-bid values. East's double of an artificial bid is lead directing. South has a perfect hand for slam: nothing wasted in diamonds, and when South finds the ♠ A plus the heart and club kings in the North hand, he decides to gamble for a grand.

Most would settle for a small slam

Play commentary: South can make this contract if East has the ♥ Q or West has the ♠ Q. Assuming one of these finesses works, declarer still has to take the right one! When two queens are missing and taking the right finesse means making the contract, play the ace and king of the longer suit (hearts). If the queen doesn't drop, take a finesse in the shorter suit, clubs. Yes, I know, you may have stopped in six and didn't have to worry about which finesse to take. But one day you might.

Further bidding commentary: Many partnerships use a direct jump from 1♠ to 4♣, 4♦ or 4♥ (second hand passing) to show a singleton in the jump suit, opening bid values and at least four-card spade support. In response to a 1♥ opening, jumps to 3♠ (not 4♠), 4♣ and 4♦ (second hand passing) are also splinter jumps. A direct jump to 4♠ is natural showing a zillion spades with less than opening-bid strength. A 1♠ response to an opening bid followed by a leap to 4♠ after a minimum rebid also shows long, strong spades with opening-bid strength.