

Thinking Bridge(2) By Eddie Kantar

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Responding to a takeout double

Dlr: West Vul: Both	♠ Q 9 4 2 ♥ K 5 ♦ J 5 ♣ A K 10 9 2		West Pass 3 Diamond All Pass	North 1 Club 3 Spade	East 1 Diamond Pass	South 1 Spade 4 Spade
♠ 8 ♥ J 9 6 4 2 ♦ A 10 4 3 ♣ 8 7 4		♠ 6 5 3 ♥ A Q 10 ♦ K Q 8 7 2 ♣ 6 5	Opening lead: ♦ A			
	♠ A K J 10 7 ♥ 8 7 3 ♦ 6 5 ♣ Q J 3					

Bidding commentary: In the modern game, jump raises of opening bids or overcalls in competition (3♦) are preemptive. A cuebid is used to show strong supporting hands. As North, do not count for the ♦J, a secondary honor card in a suit that has been bid and supported. Even so, your hand is strong enough to bid 3♠ and South is strong enough to bid 4♠, attaching extra value to honors in partner's first bid suit. (♠Q J)

Defensive commentary: As East, when partner leads a winning card in a suit you have bid, and a suit in which you have strength, check dummy to determine whether you want a continuation or prefer a shift. If you want a shift, play your lowest card. Good partners can usually work out the "shift" suit. It is usually dummy's shorter side suit. You want a heart shift, so play the ♦2. If you get the shift, you can take two hearts and two diamonds and defeat the contract one trick. If you don't ask for a shift and partner returns a diamond, you only get one heart trick as declarer can rattle off five spades and five clubs for 10 tricks.