

# THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

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Dir: North Vul: None	<b>NORTH</b> ♠ A 6 2 ♥ A 8 5 ♦ K Q 6 ♣ 7 6 5 4		West	North	East	South
				1 Club	Pass	1 Heart
			Pass	1 NT	Pass	4 Heart
			All Pass			
<b>WEST</b> ♠ Q J 9 ♥ 7 2 ♦ 10 5 4 3 2 ♣ A 9 8		<b>EAST</b> ♠ 10 8 7 5 ♥ K 3 ♦ J 9 8 7 ♣ Q J 10	Opening Lead = ♥ Q.			
	<b>SOUTH</b> ♠ K 4 3 ♥ Q J 10 9 6 4 ♦ A ♣ K 3 2					

**Bidding commentary:** The opening bidder should open any four-card club suit in preference to any three-card diamond suit. Also, with this distribution, North's first priority is to rebid 1NT, not raise hearts. South has enough to bid game. A leap to 3♥ would not be forcing. The one who knows goes!

**Play commentary:** As for declarer, taking a heart finesse before discarding losers on the ♦K Q hints strongly of a death wish. First things first. Win the ♠K, unblock the ♦A, cross to the ♠A and discard a club and a spade on the ♦K Q. At this point, you can ruff a spade high and take the heart finesse. Even if it loses, the most you can lose is two clubs and a heart. Had you taken the heart finesse prematurely (time to enroll in Finesseaholics Anonymous for immediate treatment), you lose three clubs and a heart, assuming East shifts to the ♣Q upon winning the ♥K. Before playing to the first trick, take a good look at your dummy to see if there are any goodies over there (♦K Q) that you need to use before letting the opponents in. Look ahead.

**Defensive commentary:** Defensive commentary: As East, when partner leads a queen, the 10 and the king are considered equal honors, so an encouraging signal (♠8), is in order. West assumes partner has the 10 or the king when East plays the 8, not a doubleton. It is dangerous to signal high-low with a doubleton when partner leads the queen unless the honor strength in dummy (e.g., A-K-10) tells partner you can't possibly have an honor.