

THINKING BRIDGE (1)

Eddie Kantar Spring 2016 Kansas

Dir: West	♠ A Q 9 4			
Vul: E-W	♥ A J 10 4			
	♦ A J			
	♣ 10 9 2			
	♠ K J 10 7 5			
	♥ K 9 8			
	♦ 10			
	♣ J 8 5 3			
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>		<i>South</i>
1♣	Dbl	Pass		2♣
Pass	4♣	All Pass		

Bidding commentary: As South, you can revalue your hand facing a takeout double. An unbid five-card major is worth one extra point, minimum. The ♥K facing likely heart length and strength is worth an extra point. Don't count anything for the ♣J, a lonesome secondary honor in a suit bid by the opponents. All in all, your hand is worth at least 9 points, closer to 10 because of the strength of your spades. In any case, you have enough to make a non-forcing jump to 2♣, showing 9-11 revalued points, an important number to remember. As North, with 17 support points (one for the doubleton), you have enough to bid 4♣.

Defensive commentary: West starts with three top clubs and then the ♦K.

Play commentary: As South, you must find the ♥Q to make your contract. When you pull trumps, you find that West started with three spades. You know he started with three clubs (East followed three times), so he has a balanced hand. When an opponent has a balanced hand and doesn't open 1NT or 2NT, that opponent must have 12-14 or 18-19 HCP. With 18-19, opener usually bids again. Assume 12-14 if opener remains silent. West has turned up with 9 HCP in clubs and figures to have the ♦K Q for 14 HCP. Ergo, West doesn't have the ♥Q or else would have opened 1NT. After drawing trumps, lead a heart to the ace and run the ♥J, intending to finesse if the queen doesn't appear.

To remember: If opener starts with 1♣ or 1♦ and turns up with three cards in that suit, opener must have a balanced hand - no singletons, no voids and no five-card suit.

The full deal:

	♠ A Q 9 4			
	♥ A J 10 4			
	♦ A J			
	♣ 10 9 2			
♠ 8 6 3			♠ 2	
♥ 7 4 3 2			♥ Q 6	
♦ K Q 5			♦ 9 8 7 6 4 3 2	
♣ A K Q			♣ 7 6 4	
	♠ K J 10 7 5			
	♥ K 9 8			
	♦ 10			
	♣ J 8 5 3			