

THINKING BRIDGE (6)

Eddie Kantar Spring 2016 Kansas

				North																			
Dlr: North				♠ Q 10 5 4																			
Vul: Both				♥ K 8 7 6																			
				♦ 9 5																			
				♣ K 7 4																			
♠ 9 6						♠ J 8 7																	
♥ 10 3						♥ 9 5 2																	
♦ Q J 10 7						♦ A K 8 3 2																	
♣ J 10 9 6 5						♣ A Q																	
				♠ A K 3 2																			
				♥ A Q J 4																			
				♦ 6 4																			
				♣ 8 3 2																			
				<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;"><i>West</i></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><i>North</i></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><i>East</i></td> <td style="width: 25%;"><i>South</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pass</td> <td>1♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3♦</td> <td>Dbl</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>3♥</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>		Pass	1♦	Dbl	3♦	Dbl	Pass	3♥	All Pass			
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Opening lead: ♦Q.

Bidding commentary: West's jump after the opposing takeout double is weak. He doesn't worry about partner having three diamonds. That will be the case only about 5% of the time. Do not play for exceptions! Would you rather be right 5% or 95% of the time? North's double, called "responsive," is for takeout after partner makes a takeout double and the opponents support each other. The double shows the ability to play in hearts and spades plus 7-10 HCP. South bids the full value of his hand - 3♥ is plenty. North has told his story with his double, and if all partner can do is bid 3♥, North should call it a day.

Defensive commentary: As East, before blindly playing the ♦8 to encourage partner, check dummy to see there's an option other than continuing diamonds. Your eyes should come to rest upon your clubs. A club shift would be great, so play a low diamond, asking for a shift, usually to dummy's shorter side suit. If partner shifts to the ♣J and declarer plays low from dummy, win the ♣Q, cash the ♣A, and lead a low diamond to partner's known jack to get a club ruff. Nice defense.

Defensive commentary #2. As third hand, do not signal partner encouragement in the suit that is led if you want a shift. Play low and hope partner works it out.

Play commentary: As South, if West shifts to the ♣J, play low from dummy. The bidding and the play marks East with the ♣A Q and it may be doubleton! Force the opponents to play flawlessly to defeat your contract.