

THINKING BRIDGE (8)

Eddie Kantar Spring 2017 Kansas

Dir: South	♠ 7 6 3		
Vul: N-S	♥ Q 10 8		
	♦ A Q 3 2		
	♣ A Q J		
♠ 10 9 8		♠ A K Q 2	
♥ 3 2		♥ 4	
♦ 10 8 7 6 5		♦ K J 9	
♣ 10 8 4		♣ K 9 7 6 5	
	♠ J 5 4		
	♥ A K J 9 7 6 5		
	♦ 4		
	♣ 3 2		
<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
Pass	4♥	Dbl	3♥ All Pass

Opening lead: 10.

Bidding commentary: As South, you have a maximum vulnerable preempt. As North, you have to decide between responding 3NT, gambling on the spade position, or raising to 4 , exposing your A-Q combinations to an immediate attack from West. As it happens, the opponents can run only four spades, so 3NT would have been OK. East probably has the best hand at the table and more or less has to act over 4 . East's double is for takeout. If West has a weak balanced hand, it's reasonable for him to take his chances and pass.

Defensive commentary: East wins three spade tricks and exits safely with a heart.

Play commentary: As South, after East exits with a trump, it appears that you have to guess which minor-suit finesse to take, fearing from the bidding that neither is going to work. You do, however, have an extra chance. Play the A and ruff a diamond. Return to dummy with a trump and ruff another diamond. If the K appears (it does!), there is no need to take the club finesse. You can discard a club on the Q. If the K does not make a royal appearance, take the club finesse, but don't hold your breath. When missing two kings and having to decide which finesse to take, check to see if one of the suits includes a singleton (diamonds). If it does, try to ruff out the king of that suit. If that doesn't work, take the finesse in the other suit (clubs).