

## THINKING BRIDGE (9)

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Dlr: South	♠ K 10
Vul: E-W	♥ A J 7
	♦ J 9 4 3 2
	♣ A K J
	♠ A Q J
	♥ K Q 2
	♦ A 10
	♣ 10 9 8 7 2

The auction is short and sweet. You open 1NT and partner saves time and bids 6NT. West leads the ♥10 and there you are.

### Plan the play.

This is not the time to put all of your eggs in the club finesse basket just yet. If the finesse loses - yes, you will cash the ace first - you have 11 tricks with no prayer for a 12th. You can increase your chances dramatically by winning the ♥J and leading a low diamond to the 10. Say it loses and another heart comes back. Win the ace, cash the ♣A, and cross to the ♦A. If the outstanding diamond honor drops, you have enough tricks without the club finesse. If the other diamond honor doesn't drop, take the club finesse.

In addition to making the contract whenever East has honor doubleton in diamonds, you also come home a winner if East started with ♦K Q (x) (x). This all comes to around 60%.

### The full deal:

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