

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC – SPRING – 2009-HOUSTON)

Dir: South Vul: None	NORTH ♠ J 5 4 ♥ A 6 5 4 ♦ 8 4 ♣ A K Q 7		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>West</th> <th>North</th> <th>East</th> <th>South</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>1 Club</td> <td>1 Spade</td> <td>2 Heart</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td>3 Heart</td> <td>Pass</td> <td>4 Heart</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pass</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	West	North	East	South	Pass	1 Club	1 Spade	2 Heart	Pass	3 Heart	Pass	4 Heart	All				Pass			
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WEST ♠ 7 2 ♥ K 9 8 ♦ K 7 6 5 3 ♣ 9 6 4		EAST ♠ A K Q 6 3 ♥ 3 ♦ J 10 9 2 ♣ 8 5 3	Opening Lead = ♠7																				
	SOUTH ♠ 10 9 8 ♥ Q J 10 7 2 ♦ A Q ♣ J 10 2																						

Bidding commentary: South is not strong enough to open, but is strong enough to accept North's invitational raise. Note: North does not count the \bar{J} as a point. Unsupported jacks in suits bid by the opponents are usually worthless – unless partner bids notrump.

Defensive commentary: After East cashes three spades, West must find a discard. As West, before discarding, ask yourself which suit you want partner to lead. If you said a diamond, think again. You want a spade! Look at your hearts. If partner leads a spade and declarer discards, your $\epsilon 8$ drives out the ace. The ϵK is now the setting trick. If declarer ruffs with an honor (likely), you will discard – and your $\epsilon K 9 8$ will now produce a trick! This is one of those time when you want partner to give declarer a ruff and a sluff! So how do you get partner to lead a spade? You make a discouraging discard in diamonds, the suit partner will be tempted to lead. If you discard the $\phi 3$, discouraging, it doesn't take an Einstein to figure out you want a spade. After all, how could you want a club?