

THINKING BRIDGE

By **Eddie Kantar** > Using the bidding to guide you in play and defense - part 3
 (From - NABC Spring- 2015 - New Orleans bul 3)

Dir: East Vul: None	NORTH ♠ KJ ♥ 10975 ♦ K653 ♣ 654		West	North	East	South
			--	--	Pass	1 Heart
			Pass	2 Heart	X	4 Heart
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ 109543 ♥ 83 ♦ Q4 ♣ Q832		EAST ♠ AQ87 ♥ A6 ♦ 987 ♣ J1097	Opening Lead = ♠ 10			
	SOUTH ♠ 62 ♥ KQJ42 ♦ AJ102 ♣ AK					

Bidding commentary: East's original pass followed by a takeout double shows 9-11 highcard points with shortness in the bid suit. With as few as 9 HCP, East is likely to have a singleton heart. South's 4♥ bid is clear.

Defensive commentary: From combinations headed by two adjacent honors, the A-K, K-Q, Q-J, J-10 or 10-9, the higher honor is led at a suit contract. At notrump, three adjacent honors or the third card in the sequence missing by one place - e.g., Q-J-9 - are necessary to lead an honor. As East, cash the first two spades and shift to the ♣J.

Play commentary: After winning the ♣A (higher equal for deceptive purposes), drive out the ♥A. Once East turns up with the ♥A, you have seen 11 HCP come out of the East hand. East passed as dealer, so West has the ♦Q. Draw trumps and play the ♦A and ♦J, intending to finesse if the jack is not covered.

Tip: Assume that a passed hand has fewer than 12 HCP. However, if a passed hand turns up with a six-card suit or two five-card suits, assume fewer than 11 HCP as 11 HCP is enough to open with either of those distributions.