

## THINKING BRIDGE

By **Eddie Kantar** >> Using the bidding as a guide in the play and defense  
 (From - NABC Spring- 2015 - New Orleans bul 8)

Dir: West Vul: None	NORTH ♠ J5 ♥ A7653 ♦ 8 ♣ AJ1083		West	North	East	South
			Pass	Pass	Pass	1 Diamond
			X	1 Heart	1 Spade	2 Diamondf
			2 Spade	2 Club	Pass	3 NT
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ K1073 ♥ KQ84 ♦ 3 ♣ Q942		EAST ♠ Q864 ♥ 1092 ♦ AJ652 ♣ 7	Opening Lead = ♠ 3			
	SOUTH ♠ A92 ♥ J ♦ KQ10974 ♣ K65					

**Bidding commentary:** West has a perfect passed-hand takeout double: shortness in opener's suit, 9-11 high-card points and four-card support for the unbid suits.

As North, start bidding both suits rather than redoubling. It may be awkward to get both suits in beneath 3NT if you start with a redouble particularly in competition. The 3♣ bid is invitational as North is a passed hand. Otherwise it would be forcing.

**Play commentary:** You need seven tricks in the minors and the opponents can take three spades and the ♦A once they get in. Five club tricks are easy if West has the expected ♣Q, and two diamond tricks are likely if East, the hand that is surely long in diamonds, has the jack. Play the ♠J from dummy at trick one, your only chance to take two spade tricks. Win the first spade when North covers. You don't relish a heart shift (it will set you). Besides, spades are surely 4-4, so why hold up?

At trick two, lead a club to the jack, retaining the ♣K as a later hand entry, now a diamond to the 10 (the key play). If the 10 holds (or loses to the ace), you can drive out the ♦A and have nine tricks.