

# THINKING BRIDGE

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## What can go wrong?

Dir: South Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ J 9 8 ♥ J ♦ Q J 9 6 4 ♣ J 5 3 2		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	1 Diamond
			Pass	3 Diamond(1)	Pass	3 NT
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ 6 4 3 ♥ K 10 7 6 3 ♦ 5 2 ♣ K 8 4		EAST ♠ K Q 10 ♥ 9 8 4 2 ♦ A 7 ♣ 10 9 7 6	(1) : Preemptive Opening Lead = ♥6			
	SOUTH ♠ A 7 5 2 ♥ A Q 5 ♦ K 10 8 3 ♣ A Q					

**.Bidding Commentary:** North-South are playing inverted minors where a raise to 2♦ is strong and a jump to 3♦ is weak.

**Defensive Commentary:** As East, play the ♥8 at trick one, second high from four small to give count when the dummy's honor cannot be topped.

**Playing commentary:** As South, it looks normal to drive out the ♦A, but it's not. If East has the ♦A (worst case scenario) and returns a heart you have only eight tricks: two hearts, four diamonds and two aces and their hearts are now ready to run. You will need the club finesse. And if that loses. . . disaster!

A better idea is to take the club finesse immediately. If it loses, West cannot safely return a heart and will surely exit a spade. You can top East's 10 (notice you still have a spade stopper-- that ♠7 is a big card) and drive out the ♦A in peace. The most they can take is two spades, a club and a diamond and you have nine tricks before they can get their hearts going. You kept the danger hand (East) from getting in prematurely by finessing into the non-danger hand, West,