

## THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

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Dir: West Vul: None	NORTH ♠ Q 7 3 ♥ 5 3 2 ♦ 10 3 ♣ A 6 5 4 2		West	North	East	South
			Pass	Pass	Pass	1 Spade
			X	2 Spade	Pass	4 Spade
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ - ♥ K 10 7 4 ♦ J 7 6 5 4 ♣ K Q J 8		EAST ♠ J 8 6 5 ♥ A J 6 ♦ K 9 8 ♣ 9 7 3	Opening Lead = ♣K			
	SOUTH ♠ A K 10 9 4 2 ♥ Q 9 8 ♦ A Q 2 ♣ 10					

**Bidding commentary:** As West, you have a perfect passed-hand takeout double, the ideal distribution along with 9-11 high-card points. As South, your hand increases in value big time when your six-card suit is supported. If the hand is balanced (6-3-2-2) it goes up only 3 points. If the hand has a singleton (6-3-3-1) like this one, it goes up 4 points. Finally, if the hand has a side-suit singleton and doubleton (6-4-2-1), the hand shoots up 5 extra points. (6-4 bid some more!) Given the 4-point upgrade, your hand skyrockets to 19 points and is worth a leap to 4♠. However, keep in mind that the value of your red-suit queens has diminished somewhat in the face of West's takeout double. As East, don't even think of counting a point for that ♠J - a secondary honor card in a suit the opponents have bid and supported

**Play commentary:** As South, there are not enough dummy entries to set up the clubs, so grab the ♣A, and take the diamond finesse. After it wins, cash the ♦A, ruff a diamond, cash the ♠Q and when West shows out, lead a spade to the 10 and draw trumps. You wind up with 10 tricks: six spades in the closed hand, two diamonds, a diamond ruff in dummy and the ♣A. It would be fatal to play one high spade from your hand and then cross to the ♠Q to take the diamond finesse. After you ruff a diamond in dummy, you would have no spade left to take the marked spade finesse.

**Play commentary #2:** As South, you should expect the diamond finesse to work! Why? West, a passed hand, has turned up with the ♣K-Q of clubs, possibly the jack as well, and figures to have a heart honor. He can't have them both or else he would have opened the bidding, not to mention leading a high heart. Because you know of a likely 9-10 HCP with West, East is a top heavy favorite to hold the ♦K. Besides, the finesse is your only realistic hope.