

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar
 (From - NABC Spring 2012 Memphis (10))

Dir: South Vul: N-S	NORTH ♠ 7 4 2 ♥ Q 9 5 2 ♦ K 9 8 ♣ K J 8		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	1 Club
			2 Spade	X	Pass	4 Heart
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ K Q J 10 5 3 ♥ 8 ♦ Q J ♣ 9 5 4 3	25-03-2012	EAST ♠ 9 8 ♥ K 7 6 3 ♦ A 10 7 6 3 2 ♣ 7	Opening Lead = ♠K			
	SOUTH ♠ A 6 ♥ A J 10 4 ♦ 5 4 ♣ A Q 10 6 2					

Bidding commentary: As South, one seldom opens 1NT with a five-card minor and a four-card major. However, it's not a bad idea to open 1NT with four diamonds, five clubs, 15-16 high-card points and strong major-suit doubletons. ♠A Q ♥K 4 ♦Q J 6 3 ♣A 8 7 5 4 is an example.

West's 2♣ is a weak jump overcall - the equivalent of a weak-two opening bid. North's negative double of 2♣ promises four hearts with 9+ HCP (possibly 8 HCP with five hearts). Keep in mind the double forces partner to bid at the three level. South, with extras, bids 4♥, not 3♥.

To make game with a 4-4 fit in a major, 24 HCP between the two hands is usually more than enough. A 4-4 fit usually plays one trick better than notrump.

Play Commentary: As South, win the ♠A, cross to a club honor and run the ♥9, not the ♥Q! If you lead the ♥Q and East plays low, your next heart play will be low to the 10, West pitching a spade. In order to repeat the finesse, you have to return to dummy with a club. Not so fast. East ruffs and leads a spade to West. If West leads a third club, East ruffs, and the ♦A defeats the contract one trick. If, instead, West shifts to the ♦Q, the defense can take two diamonds, a spade and two club ruffs!