

**THINKING BRIDGE** -- By Eddie Kantar  
(From - NABC -Spring-2012 - Memphis-7 )

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

**Bidding commentary:** North has an automatic raise to 2♥. It is a major error to rebid 1♠ after the 1♥ response intending to support hearts later. Delayed support shows three-card support. As South, even if North has three hearts for the raise to 2♥, bidding 4♥ stands out given the strength of your hand and the strength of your hearts not to mention a double fit

**Lead commentary:** Only two adjacent honors (Q-J) are needed to lead an honor against a suit contract. At notrump, the lead of the queen shows a suit headed by the Q-J-10, Q-J-9 or, exceptionally, the A-Q-J.

**Defensive commentary:** As East, rise with the ♦A in case South has a singleton king. At trick two, looking at this non-threatening dummy, a passive defense seems best, so return the ♦6, your original fourth-highest diamond. It is important to return the proper card. Some partners watch!

**Play commentary:** As South, after winning the ♦K, play the ♥A Q, intending to draw trumps before taking the club finesse. However, when East is cards on the second heart, switch to plan B. You dare not draw trumps and turn this into a notrump hand before taking the club finesse. If you do and the finesse loses, their diamonds are all winners. Finesse the club now. After it loses and a likely club is returned, draw trumps, run the clubs and take the spade finesse. It works!

**Defensive commentary #2:** As East, when discarding on hearts, keep length parity with dummy's spades. When dummy has a four-card side suit, a defender who has four cards in the suit with at least one of them higher than dummy's lowest card should hang on to all four cards. For example, if dummy has the ♠A K Q 9 and you have the ♠10 7 6 2, hang on to your spade. With the ♠8 6 3 2, however, you can afford to discard spades.