

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar
 (From - NABC -Fall 2006 - Honolulu, Hawaii - 1)

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

Bidding commentary: South is not strong enough to open, but is strong enough to accept North's invitational raise.

Note: North does not count the ♠J as a point. Unsupported jacks in suits bid by the opponents are usually worthless - unless partner bids notrump.

Defensive commentary: After East cashes three spades, West must find a discard. As West, before discarding, ask yourself which suit you want partner to lead. If you said a diamond, think again. You want a spade! Look at your hearts. If partner leads a spade and declarer discards, your ♥8 drives out the ♥A and the ♥K is the setting trick. If declarer ruffs with an honor (likely), discard, and your K-9-8 becomes a trick!

At times you may want partner to give declarer a ruff and a sluff!

So how do you get partner to lead a spade? You make a discouraging discard in the suit partner will be tempted to lead, a diamond. If you discard the ♦3, discouraging, it doesn't take an Einstein to figure out you want a spade. After all, how could you want a club?