

## THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC -FALL 2006 - HONOLULU - HAWAII = 8-24-11-2006)

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

**Bidding commentary:** South has a promising hand for a balancing 2♥ bid and has no trouble bidding game after North invites

**Lead commentary:** East signals encouragement in spades, and West continues with the ♠K and a spade to East's queen. East exits with the ♣Q.

**Play commentary:** South counts 20 high card points between his hand and dummy, leaving the opponents with 20. Furthermore, South knows that West has 15-17 HCP. East has already turned up with the ♠Q and presumably the ♣Q J. That's 5 HCP. Therefore, West must have the ♥K and the ♦Q. After the heart finesse wins and trumps are removed, South has to broach diamonds knowing West has the queen. If the queen is doubleton, playing the ace-king will work. But West has turned up with a doubleton heart and is unlikely to have two doubletons and open 1NT. What declarer must do is play East for the ♦10 and take a backwards finesse!

South leads the ♦J. Assuming West covers, dummy's ace wins and a diamond is led to the 9. South would play the same with the ♦A J 9 facing ♦K x x knowing where the queen is