

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar
(From - NABC -FALL - SANFRANCISCO- 2012 - 1)

Dir: East Vul: E-W	NORTH ♠ K Q 4 ♥ 9 8 2 ♦ 8 4 ♣ Q 10 9 8 7		West	North	East	South
					1 Heart	X
			Pass	2 Club	Pass	2 Spade
			3 Spade	Pass	4 Spade	All Pass
WEST ♠ 8 7 5 ♥ 7 6 4 ♦ Q 10 6 5 2 ♣ J 4	23-11-2012	EAST ♠ 6 2 ♥ A K Q 5 3 ♦ 9 3 ♣ K 6 3 2	Opening Lead = ♥4			
	SOUTH ♠ A J 10 9 3 ♥ J 10 ♦ A K J 7 ♣ A 5					

Bidding commentary: As South, with a doubleton in the opener's suit, your takeout double followed by a new suit bid shows 17-18 "working" high- card points (don't count the ♥J). With a singleton in opener's suit, 16 HCP is enough to double and then bid a new suit. If your hand is not strong enough to meet these requirements, overcall.

As North, you have enough to boost partner to 3♣. Your hand has improved on the bidding and partner is sitting over there with some 17-18 points. You are an eyelash away from raising to 4♠. As East, you are not strong enough to rebid 2♥ with only five hearts, not to mention a minimum opening, not to mention a silent partner.

Lead commentary: With three low cards in partner's unsupported suit, lead low. With three low in partner's supported suit, lead high.

Play commentary: As South, if the defense starts with three rounds of hearts, ruff low. West has shown three hearts by leading low-high. Pay attention to the second card the opening leader plays after having led partner's unsupported suit. There's a world of difference between high-low and low-high.

Play commentary #2. As South, the plan is to ruff two diamonds in dummy with high trumps. After ruffing the third heart, play the ♦A and ♦K and ruff a diamond high. If the queen has not appeared, cross to the ♣A and ruff the ♦J high. You remain with four high trumps and a losing club. Making four.

Defensive commentary: As East, if the ♣Q is led from dummy, cover. If a low club is led, play low.