

THINKING BRIDGE - - By Eddie Kantar
 (From - NABC -FALL - SANFRANCISCO- 2012 -10)

Dir: South Vul: None	NORTH ♠ 5 4 3 2 ♥ Q J 10 9 ♦ K Q 9 ♣ K Q		West	North	East	South
			--	--	--	1 Heart
			Pass	2 NT	Pass	4 Heart
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ A10 ♥ 8 3 2 ♦ 8 6 4 2 ♣ J 10 9 7		EAST ♠ 9 8 7 2 ♥ A ♦ J 7 5 3 ♣ A 6 4 3	Opening Lead = ♣J.			
	SOUTH ♠ K Q J ♥ K 7 6 5 4 ♦ A 10 ♣ 8 5 2					

Bidding commentary: North-South are playing the Jacoby 2NT response to a major suit opening bid. This response shows a game-forcing heart raise, typically balanced, with four or more trumps and 12-15 HCP. South's 4♥ shows a minimum with no slam interest. After a Jacoby 2NT response, if opener has a singleton, opener bids that suit at the three level. If opener has a 5-5 pattern, opener jumps in the second suit at the four level. If opener has a six-card suit with even slight extra values, opener rebids the major at the three level. Finally, if opener has a strong balanced hand (16-18 HCP), opener rebids 3NT. Opener can also take charge and bid 4NT, Blackwood.

Defensive commentary: As East, win the ♠A and shift to the ♠9. As West, win the ♠A and return the ♠10, hoping for a spade ruff if partner has the ♥A.

Play commentary: As South, when a spade is led at trick two, play the ♠K (higher equal) and win the spade return with the queen (higher equal). After all of this deception, you are still being threatened with a spade ruff. Your counter is to play three rounds of diamonds, discarding your winning ♠J, and then lead a heart.

Defensive commentary #2: As East, when in with the ♥A, lead a spade.

Play Commentary #2. As South, after East wins the ♥A and returns a spade, don't get careless now! Ruff with the ♥K (you can afford it) draw trumps, and claim. When you sense an impending ruff and are missing the ace of trumps, you may have to discard a winner before touching trumps.