

THINKING BRIDGE - - By **Eddie Kantar**

(From - NABC -FALL - 2014 - PROVIDENCE - RHODE ISLAND - 1)

Dir: wEST Vul: E-W	NORTH ♠ KJ109 ♥ J103 ♦ 42 ♣ 8652		West	North	East	South
			Pass	Pass	Pass	1 Heart
			X	2 Heart	X	4 Heart
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ Q864 ♥ 6 ♦ QJ107 ♣ AJ109		EAST ♠ A73 ♥ 75 ♦ A983 ♣ Q743	Opening Lead = ♦ Q			
	SOUTH ♠ 52 ♥ AKQ9842 ♦ K65 ♣ K					

Bidding commentary: West has a perfect passed-hand takeout double - 9-11 high-card points with shortness in opener's suit. After a takeout double, North's raise to 2♥ shows about 5-8 dummy points. East's double is responsive. It says, "Partner, you pick a suit. I don't have four spades, but I have support for both minors and enough to compete to the three level." With a fit of at least 10 cards in hearts, South wants his partnership to be the declaring side.

Defensive commentary: East wins the ♦ A and shifts to a low club. The spades in dummy look ominous. West wins the ♣ A and continues with the ♣ J.

Play commentary: As South, after ruffing the second club and drawing trumps, you can see the contract depends on getting the spades right. You have the clues. West, a passed hand, has turned up with 8 HCP in the minors: the ♦ Q J and the ♣ A J. If West had the ♠ A (12 HCP) along with his unbalanced distribution, he would have opened the bidding. Play East for the ♠ A and lead a low spade to the jack.

To remember: A passed hand seldom has as many as 12 HCP. If a passed hand turns up with 9 HCP, he doesn't figure to have any more aces or kings. If a passed hand turns up with 10 HCP, assume he has no more aces, kings or queens