

# THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC Spring 2011 Louisville-Kentucky - 2)

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

**Bidding commentary:** North's redouble shows 11 or more high-card points (seldom 10) and East is allowed to show a four-card suit at the one level. West knows that East can't have much given the North-South bidding. The redoubling side usually has 24 HCP between them, minimum. South's Pass indicates a full opening bid (more on this later) and West's raise shows four-card support with 16-18 support points.

As South, after hearing support for your six-card suit, tack on 3 extra points if your hand has no singleton, 4 if it does, and a whopping 5 xtra points if it has a singleton and a doubleton. Don't look now, but your hand is now worth 17 points, perhaps less as the ♠K may not be working on the bidding.

**Lead commentary:** Holding the ace-king in a suit partner has bid, the king, not the ace, is the proper lead. The lead of an ace in a suit partner has bid, or in a supported suit, denies the king. In either of these scenarios, an ace is often led without the king.

**Defensive commentary:** East plays the ♠J at trick one, the equal honor signal showing the top of a sequence. West, who wants a club shift, leads a low spade at trick two to East's 9. East shifts to the ♣10, which West can read as shortness because the ♣9 is in the dummy. Whenever partner leads an honor card and the next lower card is visible, assume shortness. West takes two clubs and gives East a club ruff for down two. It is the only defense that defeats the contract. Note: Some lead the queen from the A-K-Q.