

THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC SPRING 2011 LOUISVILLE KENTUCKY 3)

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

Bidding commentary: : East has a routine takeout double with shortness in the opener's suit. Your redouble shows 11 or more high-card points and promises another bid if West bids and North passes. West's two-level escape suggests a five-card suit, and partner passes to see what you have to say. You double. After an opening bid, a takeout double, and a redouble, any subsequent double by the opener or the responder is a penalty double. Partner, assuming you have fewer than three hearts, accepts your decision and passes, as does East. If East runs to 2♦, partner doubles. Don't ask.

Lead commentary: As North, when partner makes a penalty double of a low-level contract, a trump lead is usually best. A penalty double of low-level contract shows strong trumps, so don't worry about "finessing partner." Besides, a trump lead often cuts down dummy's expected ruffing power (shortness in opener's suit.)

Defensive commentary: After you take the first three club tricks, you have an easy shift to the king and a heart. Your side races off four heart ricks, and when partner leads a fifth heart you trump. Guess what? Your side takes the first eight tricks and collects a juicy 800 points. They have done nothing wrong, but your side has done everything right!