

# THINKING BRIDGE

By Eddie Kantar

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Dir: West Vul: None	NORTH ♠ KQJ1065 ♥ A3 ♦ J4 ♣ J42		West	North	East	South
			Pass	1 Spade	X	3 NT
			Pass	4 Spade	All Pass	
WEST ♠ 7 ♥ 10962 ♦ 97652 ♣ K85		EAST ♠ 43 ♥ QJ84 ♦ KQ108 ♣ A109	Opening Lead = ♦K			
	SOUTH ♠ A982 ♥ K75 ♦ A3 ♣ Q763					

**Bidding commentary:** This is one of the rare times that you do not redouble with 11+ HCP. When you have four-card (or longer) major-suit support plus opening-bid values, jump to 3NT to tell your story in one bid. North, with a minimum, corrects to 4♠. If you had slam intentions, you would cuebid or use Blackwood if partner signs off.

**Lead commentary:** Routine with this strong honor-sequence holding.

**Play commentary:** As North, you are in danger of losing four tricks: three clubs and a diamond. You should assume the club honors are divided as East would probably have led a high club holding the ace-king. However, you have an answer - a sure-fire answer. Win the ♦A, draw trumps, play the ♥A, a heart to the king and ruff a heart, stripping that suit, and exit a diamond, your equal-length side suit. East is on play with the ♦Q, and if East leads a club or gives you a ruff and sluff, you lose but two club tricks. If you have to play clubs yourself, you will lose three club tricks.

**Tip:** Here, if an opponent gives you a ruff and sluff rather than lead a club, ruff in the hand that is longer in clubs and discard from the hand that is shorter in clubs. Translation: Ruff in the South hand and discard a club from the North hand.