

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar
(From - NABC -Spring 2007 St Louis -3)

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

Bidding commentary: West has a standard weak two-bid, and North has a standard takeout double. South is too strong to respond 3♥, a non-jump response that shows 0-8 "working" points.

Note: When responding to a takeout double, an unbid five-card major is worth two extra working points. Jacks and queens in the opponent's suit are not considered working points.

Play commentary: Declarer does best to win the ♠A, draw trumps and run the ♣J.

Defensive commentary: After winning the ♣K, East can count declarer for 10 tricks: five hearts, two spades and now three clubs. To defeat the contract, East must project a diamond holding in the West hand that allows the defenders to take three quick diamond tricks. That holding is the K-J-10. If East shifts to a low diamond, and West wins the king and returns the jack, the defenders take three diamonds. Down one.

Counting declarer's tricks is a huge part of winning defense. It tells a defender whether to make aggressive or passive plays. In this case, an aggressive play is called for, and East has to come up with the winning defense of a low diamond.

Count their tricks!