

**THINKING BRIDGE** -- By Eddie Kantar  
(From - NABC -Spring 2007 St Louis - 5 )

Dir: North Vul: None	NORTH ♠ 10 9 4 ♥ 9 6 5 ♦ Q 8 6 ♣ A Q 6 4		West	North	East	South
				Pass	1 Heart	X
			Pass	2 Club	2 Heart	2 Spade
			Pass	4 Spade	All Pass	
WEST ♠ 5 ♥ 8 3 2 ♦ 10 7 5 3 2 ♣ 9 7 5 2		EAST ♠ A 6 3 2 ♥ A K Q J 7 ♦ 9 4 ♣ 8 3	Opening Lead = ♥2			
	SOUTH ♠ K Q J 8 7 ♥ 10 4 ♦ A K J ♣ K J 10					

**Bidding commentary:** South is too strong to overcall 1♠, so he doubles, intending to bid spades next. With this distribution, a double followed by a suit bid shows 17-18 high-card points. Given the strength that South is showing, North has enough to raise to 4♠. A raise to 3♠ is possible but a touch conservative

**Lead commentary:** Holding three low cards in partner's unsupported suit, lead low to deny a doubleton. If you raised partner's opening bid, lead high to deny an honor. Partner knows of your length.

**Defensive commentary:** The possession of four to the ace in the opponents' trump suit is a powerful weapon, particularly when holding a long, strong side suit. East plays three rounds of hearts, forcing South to ruff. South and East now have four spades each. When South begins to draw trumps, East is careful to win the third round with the ace. Not the first, not the second, but the third round. Why?

Because the third spade is the one that exhausts dummy. Now East can play a fourth heart, forcing South to ruff with his last spade. East remains with a high spade and a high heart – down two. If East wins an earlier spade and leads a heart, North, the short trump hand, can ruff, leaving South with enough spades to draw East's trumps.

**Play commentary:** As South, if East ducks two spades, do not play a third. Play minor-suit winners and let East ruff, limiting your loss to down one.