

**THINKING BRIDGE** -- By Eddie Kantar  
 (From - NABC Spring 2008 Detroit - Michigan - 3)

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

**Bidding commentary:** West's passed-hand takeout double shows 9-11 high-card points, plus support for the unbid suits. In addition, West is likely to have four hearts, the unbid major. North's jump to 2NT is conventional. It is the equivalent of a limit raise, because a jump to 3♠ after a takeout double is considered weak and preemptive. South, with a minimum and balanced hand (the pits), signs off at 3♠.

**Defensive commentary:** West cashes three hearts and shifts to the ♦J.

**Play commentary:** As South, you see that West, a passed hand, has already turned up with 10 HCP, so East must have both black kings. There is still a chance. Win the ♦Q, cash the ♠A, continue with the ♦A and ♦K, stripping that suit, and exit a spade. On a good day, East will have started with a doubleton ♠K and be forced to return a club. Knowing East has the ♣K makes it easy to play the ♣Q and make the contract. If West is marked with the ♣K, play a low club from dummy, hoping East has the jack.

If a passed hand turns up 10 HCP, play the partner for any missing queen, king or ace. If a passed hand turns up with 11 HCP, play the partner for any missing jack, queen, king or ace. If a passed hand turns up with 12 HCP, you are playing against a very conservative bidder!