

**THINKING BRIDGE** -- By **Eddie Kantar**  
 (From - NABC Spring 2008-Detroit - Michigan - 9)

|  |   |  |                    |       |           |         |
|--|---|--|--------------------|-------|-----------|---------|
| Dir: West<br>Vul: E-W                              | NORTH<br>♠ 8 4 3<br>♥ J 9 8<br>♦ 7 4 3<br>♣ J 8 4 3   |  | West               | North | East      | South   |
|  |   |  | Pass               | Pass  | 1 Diamond | 4 Spade |
|  |   |  | All Pass           |       |           |         |
|  |   |  |                    |       |           |         |
| WEST<br>♠ 7 6<br>♥ 7 6 5 4 3 2<br>♦ K Q 6<br>♣ 9 6 |   | EAST<br>♠ 10 5<br>♥ A K<br>♦ A 10 9 8 5 2<br>♣ K 7 5 | Opening Lead = ♦K. |       |           |         |
|  | SOUTH<br>♠ A K Q J 9 2<br>♥ Q 10<br>♦ J<br>♣ A Q 10 2 |  |                    |       |           |         |

**Bidding commentary:** Facing a passed hand, South does best to overcall 4♠. All he needs is for North to have the ♠K — even the ♠J may be enough! As a general rule, if you need a specific jack, queen or king in partner's hand to make or have a good play for your contract, bid it! Partner isn't going to know in a million years that he has the one perfect card you need.

**Defensive commentary:** East signals encouragement, so West continues with the ♦Q, which South ruffs.

**Play commentary:** As South, when forced to ruff with a powerful trump holding, keep your lower trump for entry purposes. On this deal, if you ruff the second diamond low (ugh!), you can no longer get to dummy to take the club finesse even if spades break 2-2 or the 10 is singleton. If you ruff with the ♠9 (yes!) and play the top two spades, you can enter dummy with the ♠8 to take the club finesse. Also, be sure to lead the ♠J so you can stay in dummy if East doesn't cover. Playing properly, you wind up with 10 tricks: six spades and four clubs.

Treat your low card(s) that are attached to long, powerful suits with respect. They may well be the most valuable cards in your hand.