

# THINKING BRIDGE - 5

By Eddie Kantar

(From - NABC - Summer 2010 - New Orleans - LA )

## Suit combinations, part 5

Dir: West Vul: Both	NORTH ♠ 5 2 ♥ J 9 5 4 3 ♦ A J ♣ Q 8 6 4		West	North	East	South
			2 Club	Pass	2 Diamond	Pass
			2 Spade	Pass	3 Club	Pass
			3 Heart	Pass	3 Spade	Pass
			6 Spade	All Pass		
WEST ♠ A K Q J 6 ♥ A K Q J 6 ♦ K Q ♣ A K		EAST ♠ 9 8 7 ♥ 7 2 ♦ 7 5 4 3 2 ♣ J 10 5	Opening Lead = A trump lead is not clear, but is reasonable.			
	SOUTH ♠ 10 4 3 ♥ 10 6 ♦ 10 9 8 6 ♣ 9 7 3 2					

**Bidding commentary:** East's 2♦ is a "waiting" bid, not necessarily a bad hand, but 3♣ is the "second negative," showing a very bad hand. Some partnerships show the terrible hand the first time with a "super negative" bid of 2♥. All roads lead to Rome, however, after East shows a terribly weak hand, presumably with three spades. After all, West does not have many losers with that dream hand.

**Defensive commentary 1:** A trump lead is not clear, but is reasonable.

**Defensive commentary 2:** You are South, and you may not realize it, but the fate of this slam depends upon your playing low at trick one! If you turn your neck a quarter turn to the right, you will see that dummy has a doubleton heart, as do you. You should also see, that if you keep your ♠10 you will be able to overruff dummy if declarer has to ruff a heart (he does). This is yet another case where third hand does not always play high. When partner leads a trump and you have a trump that can overruff dummy, it is almost always right to play low, keeping that trump for a useful purpose.