

THINKING BRIDGE - 6

By **Eddie Kantar** > Suit combinations, part 6
(From - NABC -Summer 2010 - New Orleans)

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

Bidding and lead commentary: Normal

Play commentary: West does best to win the ♠A and run the ♥Q. As declarer, when leading one of various equal honors from the closed hand, lead the highest honor to encourage a cover, lead the second highest honor to discourage a cover. It works!

Defensive commentary: You are South. When in with the ♥K at trick two, looking at those diamonds in dummy, a spade shift is called for, but which spade? When dummy to your right has 10-x-(x), and you have that 10 “surrounded” with the J-9 plus a higher unequal honor (king or ace), attack with your second-highest honor, the jack.

Notice the repercussions of this lead. If declarer plays low, the ♠J wins the trick and the ♠A and ♠K take the next two tricks. If declarer covers with the ♠Q, partner wins and returns the ♠7. Dummy remains with the 10-8 and you have the A-9-2. Simply cover whichever spade is played, and your side collects three spades and a heart. It’s called a surrounding play!

As defender, lead the 10 from the K-10-8-(x) or Q-10-8-(x) when dummy to your right has 9-x-(x): Another surrounding play! This play saves a trick when declarer has A-J-x and partner has K-x-x-(x) or Q-x-x-(x).