

## Eddie Kantar - Thinking bridge 3

Fall 2017 - San Diego

D : South	A Q 7 3		
Vul: E-W	Q 9 2		
	10 9 8		
	10 9 2		
10 8 5 4 2		J 9	
8 5 3		K 6	
A 6		K Q 5 4 3	
K 8 3		A 7 6 4	
	K 6		
	A J 10 7 4		
	J 7 2		
	Q J 5		

<i>West</i>	<i>North</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>South</i>
			Pass
Pass	Pass	1 Diamond	1 Heart
1 Spade	2 Heart	All Pass	

**Opening lead:** A

**Bidding commentary:** West's 1 bid shows five spades. With four spades and enough to respond, West normally makes a negative double. As West, you should assume that your partner, East, has fewer than three spades given the pass of 2. After all, East knows you have five spades.

**Lead commentary:** As West, holding the ace in a suit partner has bid and planning to lead the suit, start with the ace. As East, you can't be sure of West's diamond length. Diamonds have not been supported, so the inference is "shortness."

**Defensive commentary:** Playing standard signaling methods, East encourages with the 5. West should read the 5 as encouraging! Why? When there are two or more cards lower than the one partner has played not visible, assume partner is encouraging a continuation. If there is only one lower card not visible, it's not clear whether partner is signaling encouragement. Clever declarers have been known to conceal low cards to deceive the defense. As the opening leader, train yourself to look beneath the card partner has played, the method to determine what partner's card means. Even a 7 can be a discouraging signal if all the lower cards are visible.

**Play commentary:** As South, signal West, the opening leader, as if West was your partner – using the opponents' signaling methods! Yes, you read that right. In this scenario, say the opponents are playing "standard" attitude signals. Looking at ever-growing arsenal of deceptive plays. Further defensive commentary: Say West continues a diamond to the queen, followed by the king. As West, you have a discard to make on the third round of diamonds. Try the 8, an encouraging discard. If partner is on the same wavelength and shifts to a low club, win the king, return a club to partner's ace and ruff the club return. Your side takes the first six tricks. What a defense!