

## Thinking bridge 10

**By Eddie Kantar - Spring 2018 Philadelphia-**

**The weak jump overcall, negative double, card combinations, cover or not?**

Dlr: South	♠ 7 4 2	
Vul: N-S	♥ Q 9 5 2	
	♦ K 9 8	
	♣ K J 8	
♠ K Q J 10 5 3		♠ 9 8
♥ 8		♥ K 7 6 3
♦ Q J		♦ A 10 7 6 3 2
♣ 9 5 4 3		♣ 7
	♠ A 6	
	♥ A J 10 4	
	♦ 5 4	
	♣ A Q 10 6 2	

West	North	East	South
			1♣
2♠	Dbl	Pass	4♥
All Pass			

**Opening lead:** ♠K

**Bidding commentary:** As South, one seldom opens 1NT with a five-card minor and a four-card major. However, it's not a bad idea with four diamonds, five clubs, 15-16 HCP and strong major-suits doubletons. Example: ♠A Q ♥K 4 ♦Q J 6 3 ♣A 8 7 5 4.

After South opens 1♣, West's 2♠ bid (a weak jump overcall) is the equivalent of a weak two-bid opener. North's negative double of 2♠ promises four hearts with 9+ HCP (possibly 8 HCP with five hearts). Keep in mind that the double forces partner to bid at the three level. South, with extras, bids 4♥, not 3♥. To make game with a 4-4 fit in a major, 24 HCP between the two hands is usually more than enough. A 4-4 fit usually plays one trick better than notrump.

**Play commentary:** As South, win the ♠A, cross to a club honor and run the ♥9, not the queen! If you lead the ♥Q and East plays low, your next heart play will be low to the 10, West pitching a spade. In order to repeat the finesse, you have to return to dummy with a club. Not so fast, East ruffs and leads a spade to West. If West leads a third club, East ruffs, and the ♦A defeats the contract one trick. If, instead, West shifts to the ♦Q, the defense can take two diamonds, a spade and two club ruffs!

Actually, 10 tricks are readily available. Say you lead the ♥9 at trick three (key play), East plays low and you follow with the 4. Now the lead remains in dummy and you lead the queen. No matter what East does, you can take four hearts tricks without having to return to dummy to repeat the finesse. You wind up with four heart tricks, five club tricks and the ♠A: 10 tricks.

**Defensive commentary:** As East, if the ♥Q is led from dummy at trick three, don't cover. The second heart must be won in declarer's hand. Declarer then has no way to return to dummy to repeat the heart finesse. If a diamond is led to the king, you kill it with your ace, and if a club is led, you ruff. As declarer, play the same with J-9-x (x)