

## Thinking bridge

By Eddie Kantar @NABCSpring2019 Memphis - 4

<i>Dummy</i>
♠ A 7 5
♥ J 10 9
♦ K 8 6 4 2
♣ 9 4
<i>Declarer (You)</i>
♠ K 8 4 2
♥ A Q
♦ A 5 3
♣ A K 8 6

2NT–3NT gets you the opening lead of the ♥4, East playing the ♥2, standard count. And now? Plan the play.

It looks very much as if hearts are 5–3, which means you must score nine tricks before they can get in twice. The good news is that you start with eight sure tricks. This should be your plan: Play the ♦A K. If both follow, give up a diamond, ensuring 10 tricks. If diamonds are 4–1, duck a spade. You still make 3NT if spades are 3–3.

If you duck a diamond early and diamonds are 4–1, down you go. They play a second heart and you don't have time to set up a ninth trick in spades even if the suit is divided 3–3. It is crucial to see how diamonds break before conceding a diamond. There are two suits involved here, not just one.

The full deal:		
	♠ A 7 5	
	♥ J 10 9	
	♦ K 8 6 4 2	
	♣ 9 4	
♠ J 9 3		♠ Q 10 6
♥ K 7 4 3		♥ 6 5 2
♦ Q 10 9 7		♦ J
♣ J		♣ Q 10 7 5 3 2
	♠ K 8 4 2	
	♥ A Q	
	♦ A 5 3	
	♣ A K 8 6	