

♠♥♦♣ KANTAR REDUX ♠♥♦♣

Eddie Kantar (1932-2022) once gave me this deal to use to teach Entry Management and Planning Ahead.

You are South and North opens 1♦. With only 8 HCP you are too weak to bid your Club suit. Your only response is 1NT.

S	South
♠	KJ5
♥	64
♦	62
♣	KJ10963

Partner rebids 2♥. What does this say?

A rebid of 2♥ after a 1♦ opening is a Reverse. It requires the Responder to go to the 3-level to get back to Opener's original suit. Since responder can have as few as 5 HCP, making a reverse with a minimum opening, can lead to disaster.

A reverse bid requires 17+ HCP. Then the partnership has a minimum of 22 HCP and can survive a 3-level contract. A reverse also means the bidders first suit is longer than his second suit.

Since the reverse is forcing for 1 round, you now have the opportunity to show your Club suit – 3♣.

Your partner rebids 3NT and you pass.

West leads the ♠6 and you see this dummy:

N	North
♠	A8
♥	AQ72
♦	AJ985
♣	Q4

West's Lead: ♠6

S	South
♠	KJ5
♥	64
♦	62
♣	KJ10963

Some would have opened 1NT with the North hand. With 2 doubletons, it isn't everyone's choice. But both doubletons contain honors and so, it isn't out of the question. South would have invited with 2NT and North would end up in the same contract, played from the strong side.

You are looking for 9 tricks. Given the lead, we have 3 Spades, 1 Heart and 1 Diamond. We need 4 more tricks and only the Club suit will produce them.

What is the order of the play? Do we play low from dummy and win the ♠J? Look what happens.

When you start on the Club suit, any defender worth his salt, seeing the doubleton in the dummy, will hold up his ♣A until the second Club. Now you will have no way of getting back to your hand to run the rest of the Clubs. Not only that, but even if the red suit finesses could work, you can get to your hand to lead up to the tenaces. The defense will not be leading Clubs or Spades to help you out. You must win the first trick with the ♠A and once the Clubs are ready to run, you can use the ♠K in your hand to access them.

Eddie Kantar says: "As declarer, before playing to the first trick, decide which suit you plan to establish and size up the entry situation. Be careful NOT to block your "entry suit" – like playing a low spade at trick one!"

This is the entire deal:

D		N North	W N E S
		♠ A8	1♦ P 1NT
		♥ AQ72	P 2♥ P 3♣
		♦ AJ985	P 3NT P P
		♣ Q4	P
W West		E East	
♠ Q10762		♠ 943	
♥ 953		♥ KJ108	
♦ Q73		♦ K104	
♣ A8		♣ 752	
	S South		
	♠ KJ5		
	♥ 64		
	♦ 62		
	♣ KJ10963		
		3NT S	NS: 0 EW: 0

You can see how this hand should be played by clicking on this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2dkv8a93>, or copy and paste it into your browser. Click on the "Next" button on the bottom to advance through each trick. If you don't want to see the opponents hands, click on the white area in the South hand before you start.

Alternatively, by clicking on "Play" you can play all four hands and see if you can make the hand on your own.

