

"Executing a 'Non-Material/Immaterial Entry Squeeze Endplay' When Playing as Declarer When Your LHO as Dealer Opened 1S"

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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Bruce: Today, we are honored to have with us Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, Quintuple Gold Emerald Life Master (20 Million+ ACBL MasterPoints), who will talk us through **"Executing a 'Non-Material/Immaterial Entry Squeeze Endplay' When Playing as Declarer When Your LHO as Dealer Opened 1S"**. Ms. Klinktoast-Houstonhousen, thanks for taking the time to be with us today!

Esther: D**n it, Bruce! How many times do I have to tell you to **NEVER, ever** call me Ms. Klinktoast-Houstonhousen! Always, **ALWAYS, ALWAYS** instead call me, Esther, because I am so "warm and caring"!

Bruce: Errr, well, sorry again about that, Ms. Klinktoast..., err, I mean Esther.

Esther: Well, Bruce. Please try to exercise at least a modicum of empathy, assuming you have at least the limited capacity to do so. Can you imagine how relentlessly all the other girls in grades K through 4 of my elementary school years relentlessly, endlessly tormented me about my last name, Klinktoast-Houstonhousen?

Bruce: Well, yes, sorry again, Esther! Well, Esther, you have previously taught us about the "Endplay Squeeze" by Declarer in your "Esther Bridge Dialogue Lesson #67:

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¹ As noted in an article in the Winter/Spring, 2024 article in The American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) Journal, https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/ABTA_1_24.pdf, Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So this article was really, really written by **Bruce Thompson**.

Esther Discusses "How as Declarer to Execute an Endplay 'Squeeze'":

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/Squeeze.pdf>

Now today you are teaching us about a new flavor of Squeeze Endplay, the "**Non-Material/Immaterial Entry Squeeze Endplay**". Is the "**Non-Material/Immaterial Entry Squeeze Endplay**" you are teaching today different than the "**Endplay Squeeze**" you have previously taught us?

Esther: Well, Bruce, I will certainly try to help you. Yes, Bruce, the "**Non-Material/Immaterial Entry Squeeze Endplay**" we are learning now indeed is *different* than the "**Endplay Squeeze**" we have previously discussed. The "**Endplay Squeeze**" is executed to try to compromise a "**Threat Card**" held by a particular Opponent by forcing or enticing that Opponent to discard the "**Threat Card**" or to discard cards "lower" than the "**Threat Card**" that are "protecting" (e.g., Q,x,x) the "**Threat Card**". Successfully doing so *directly* yields an "extra" Trick for the Declarer.

The "**Non-Material/Immaterial Entry Squeeze Endplay**", on the other hand, does not target an Opponent's "**Threat Card**" or the Opponent's "protection" for his "**Threat Card**". Instead, the "**Non-Material/Immaterial Entry Squeeze Endplay**" is an "**Entry Squeeze Play**" that rather than "winning" an extra Trick instead forces an Opponent to discard a holding that is *preventing Declarer from effectively going back and forth between the Dummy and his own Hand*, which is why this play is called an "**Entry Squeeze Play**".

Bruce: Well, Esther, can you give us an example Board on which a "**Non-Material/Immaterial Entry Squeeze Endplay**" is executed?

Esther: Well, Bruce, I will try to help you. Before we get to my main example involving your LHO opening with a 1S bid, I will first present as an example the Board discussed by Hugh Kelsey and Geza Ottlik in their 1979 book, Adventures in Card Play, as discussed in the Wikipedia posting, "Entry Squeeze":

DUMMY

NORTH (7)

S: K 7
H: 8 4 3
D: K 6 5 2
C: J 8 4 3

WEST (1)

S: T 8 5 3
H: T 7 5 2
D: J
C: 9 6 5 2

EAST (13)

S: A Q 6
H: A J 9
D: 9 8 7 3
C: Q T 7

DECLARER

SOUTH (19)

S: J 9 4 2
H: K Q 6
D: A Q T 4
C: A K

Declarer SOUTH is playing a **3NT** contract. WEST leads the Spade 3, 4th from the "top" of his "longest and strongest" Suit. Play proceeds as follows:

1. On Trick **#1** Declarer SOUTH plays the Spade King from the NORTH Dummy and EAST "wins" with the Spade Ace. On Trick **#2** EAST "cashes" his Spade Queen. On Trick **#3** EAST leads a "low" Spade to return WEST's initial lead and Declarer SOUTH "wins" in his "closed" (hidden) Hand with his Spade Jack.
2. On Tricks **#4** and **#5** Declarer SOUTH "cashes" his Diamond A,Q. WEST discards a "low" Heart on Trick **#5**. After **5** Tricks N/S have "won" **3** Tricks and E/W have "won" **2** Tricks. The **8** cards now held in the **4** Hands are:

DUMMY
NORTH (7)

S:
H: 8 4 3
D: K 6
C: J 8 4

WEST (1)

S: T
H: T 7 5
D:
C: 9 6 5 2

EAST (13)

S:
H: A J 9
D: 9 8
C: Q T 7

DECLARER
SOUTH (19)

S: 9
H: K Q 6
D: T 4
C: A K

Bruce: Well, Esther, what is the Declarer's problem?

Esther: Well, Bruce, Declarer SOUTH now has only **1** "entry" into the NORTH Dummy: the Dummy's Diamond King. But Declarer SOUTH now knows that WEST is void in Diamonds because on Trick **#5**, when a Diamond was led by SOUTH, WEST discarded a "low" Heart. Declarer SOUTH also knows that WEST still holds the Spade Ten because that Ten has not yet been played and WEST clearly led 4th from the "top" of his "long" Spades.

Declarer should see that on Trick **#6** he can force WEST into the lead by leading his own Spade 9 as his "**Exit Card**". Doing so will *destroy* EAST's Hand by "squeezing" EAST.

1. If on Trick **#6** EAST discards a Club then Declarer SOUTH can later "cash" his own Club A,K and then "enter" the NORTH Dummy via the Diamond King and then "cash" the Dummy's "promoted" Club Jack "winner".
 2. If on Trick **#6** EAST discards a Heart Declarer SOUTH can establish **2** later Heart Tricks, the Heart K,Q.
 3. If on Trick **#6** EAST discards a Diamond Declarer SOUTH can later lead his own Diamond Ten to the NORTH Dummy's Diamond King, then on Trick **#7** from the NORTH Dummy lead a Dummy Heart toward his own Heart King, and later lead his own Diamond 4 to the NORTH Dummy's "promoted" Diamond 6 "winner", and then return a Heart from the Dummy back toward his own Heart Queen.
- As noted by Hugh Kelsey and Geza Ottlik:

"Those silly little diamonds in the East hand have a function after all. *Idle, irrelevant or immaterial* as they may be called, by their mere existence they also serve. They stand and wait, in the way, blocking traffic, hindering enemy [N/S's] lines of communication. And having this value, however silent and hidden, they are subject to the pressure of a squeeze." [italics added]

Bruce: Oh, my, goodness, Esther! Well, Esther, would you now present the play of another bridge Board using a Board from the "**BBO Bridge Master**" website?

Esther: Well, Bruce, on my "**Esther Bridge Lessons**" website I have previously recommended the *free* "**BBO Bridge Master**" website:

<https://www.bridgebase.com/v3/anon/bridgemaster>

The "**BBO Bridge Master**" website allows you to declare your skill level, then shows a series of Hands and announces the final contract, each of which you then play as Declarer. At the end of play you can then request a solution in which the optimal "Line of Play" is discussed step by step. Here we use the *free* "**BBO Bridge Master**" Level-5 **Lesson A-23** which gives you the opportunity to *see and repeatedly practice* playing a given bridge Board. I may have altered some of the cards on this Board.

BBO Bridge Master Level 5 Lesson A-23

Dealer: **WEST**

NORTH (20)

S: K Q 2
H: A Q J 7
D: J 9 8 6
C: A K

WEST (11)

S: J T 9 8 7
H: K 9 5 3
D: A K 3
C: 5

EAST (3)

S: 6 4
H: 8 6
D: Q T 7 5
C: J T 9 8 7

SOUTH (6)

S: A 5 3
H: T 4 2
D: 4 2
C: Q 6 4 3 2

Bidding

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1S	DBL	PASS	1NT
PASS	3NT	PASS	PASS
PASS			

1. WEST leads the Diamond Ace thus "promising" the Diamond King and asking Partner EAST to signal if can "win" a 3rd Round of Diamonds with the Diamond Queen. E/W "win" 3 Rounds of Diamonds with EAST "winning" Trick #3 with his Diamond Ten. On Trick #3 Declarer SOUTH discarded a Club because WEST's opening 1S bid showed HCPs and so WEST is marked as holding the Heart King. On Trick #4 EAST "cashes" his Diamond Queen and SOUTH discards a 2nd Club from his own "closed" Hand.
2. On Trick #5 EAST leads a "low" Club and N/S "win" with the NORTH Dummy Club King and all players "follow". On Trick #6 Declarer SOUTH "cashes" the NORTH Dummy Club Ace. WEST discards a "low" Spade.
3. On Trick #7 Declarer SOUTH "cashes" the NORTH Dummy Spade King. On Trick #8 SOUTH leads a NORTH Dummy "low" Spade to his own Spade Ace. All players "follow", so Declarer SOUTH now knows that WEST initially held a 5-4-3-1 distribution. SOUTH knows that WEST now holds 1 Spade, the Spade Jack, and 4 Hearts with the Heart K, x, x, x. No Hearts have been played yet. Finally, Declarer SOUTH knows that if WEST holds the Heart 9 SOUTH cannot "make" his 3NT

contract unless Declarer SOUTH can execute a special bridge strategy.

4. On Trick #9 Declarer SOUTH "cashes" his Club Queen "winner". WEST discards his Spade Jack "loser".
 - A. If on Trick #9 Declarer SOUTH discards the NORTH Dummy's Heart 7 the NORTH Dummy will be "squeezed" in Hearts. SOUTH will only be able to take 1 Heart finesse because Hearts will now be "blocked" in the NORTH Dummy.
 - B. If Declarer SOUTH on Trick #9 Declarer SOUTH discards the Heart Queen or Jack Declarer SOUTH can still later lead his Heart Ten to "force out" WEST's Heart King to then be overtaken by the NORTH Dummy Heart King. But WEST will eventually "win" with his Heart 9 and "set" the N/S 3NT contract.

Declarer SOUTH's solution is to execute a "**Non-Material/Immaterial Entry Squeeze Endplay**".

Cardinal Bridge Principle

"Unlike a 'Simple Squeeze Play', which yields an 'extra' Trick for the Declarer, the '**Non-Material/Immaterial Entry Squeeze Endplay**' does not produce an 'extra' Trick and instead yields an 'extra' *entry*."

The "extra" entry gained by the Declarer can be used, for example, to counter the threat of a 1-Suit "squeeze", such as a "squeeze" in Hearts.

Bruce: Well, Esther, can you talk us through an alternative "Line of Play" by Declarer SOUTH that involves a "**Non-Material/Immaterial Entry Squeeze Endplay**"?

Esther: Well, Bruce, I will certainly try to help you. Let's go back to Trick #7. After Trick #6 N/S have "won" 2 Tricks and N/S have "won" 4 Tricks. The 7 cards held in each of the 4 Hands are:

NORTH (20)

S: K Q 2
H: A Q J 7
D:
C:

WEST (11)

S: J T 9
H: K 9 5 3
D:
C:

EAST (3)

S: 6 4
H: 8 6
D:
C: J T 9

SOUTH (6)

S: A 5
H: T 4 2
D:
C: Q

On Trick #7 Declarer SOUTH "cashes" the NORTH Dummy Spade King. All players "follow". On Trick #8 SOUTH plays the NORTH Dummy Spade Queen and overtakes the Spade Queen with his own Spade Ace. On Trick #9 Declarer SOUTH "cashes" his Club Queen "winner". Now WEST rather than the NORTH Dummy is "squeezed" thanks to a "Non-Material/Immaterial Entry Squeeze Endplay". After Trick #9 N/S have "won" 5 Tricks and N/S have "won" 4 Tricks.

1. If on Trick #9 WEST discards the Heart 3 Declarer SOUTH will discard the NORTH Dummy Spade 2 which has not been "promoted" by WEST discarding his Spade Jack. The 4 cards now held in the 4 Hands are:

NORTH (20)

S:
H: A Q J 7
D:
C:

WEST (11)

S: J
H: K 9 5
D:
C:

EAST (3)

S:
H: 8 6
D:
C: J T

SOUTH (6)

S: A 5
H: T 4 2
D:
C: Q

WEST has now been "endplayed" and Declarer SOUTH will "win" all the remaining Tricks and exactly "make" his 3NT contract.

2. If on Trick #9 WEST discards the Spade Jack "loser" Declarer SOUTH will discard the Heart 7 from the NORTH Dummy. On Trick #10 Declarer SOUTH can take his 1st Heart finesse through WEST by leading his Spade Ten. N/S will "win" with the Heart Ace if WEST plays his Heart King and otherwise "duck" in the NORTH Dummy. On Trick #11 after WEST "ducked" on Trick #10 Declarer SOUTH will lead his Heart 2 and again "cover" with the Heart Ace if WEST plays the Heart King and otherwise will "win" with the Dummy's Heart Jack. If WEST "ducks" on Trick #11 on Trick #12 Declarer SOUTH will return to his "closed" Hand via his own Spade 5 "winner". SOUTH will "win" Trick #13 with the NORTH Dummy's Heart Ace. Again, Declarer SOUTH will exactly make his 3NT contract thanks to a successful "**Non-Material/Immaterial Entry Squeeze Endplay**" which gave SOUTH "extra" entries back to his own Hand.



Esther says:

Why not proceed *immediately* to "**Bridge Base Online Bridge Master**" Level-5 Lesson #A-23 to practice executing a "**Non-Material/Immaterial Entry Squeeze Endplay**"? Search "BBO", then Click "Bridge Master", then Click "Play", then Click "Level 5", then Click "A-23". You can play this Board *repeatedly* in Bridge Master for *free*!

Esther also says:

"I have now prepared a "Map" of all the "**Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quizzes**" that use "BBO Bridge Master" lessons to teach the "*Squeeze Play*", the "*Elimination Endplay*", the "*Loser-on-Loser Play*", the "*Unblocking Play*", and the "*Dummy Reversal Play*":

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/MAP.pdf>