

Esther Discusses

"When Playing a Difficult Contract as Declarer the 'Jettison Play' Can Be Very Helpful"

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 "**When Playing a Difficult Contract as Declarer the 'Jettison Play' Can Be Very Helpful**". 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 such a "warm and caring" person!

Bruce: Errr, well, in any case, Esther, would you begin first by reminding us what a "**Simple Squeeze Play**" is before you then discuss the "**Jettison Play**"?

Esther: Well, my *inquisitive interlocutor*, I will certainly try to help you.

Bruce: Errr, well, Esther... Are you actually being *nice* to me?

Esther: Well, my *studious salamander*, of course I am being "nice" to you! Why wouldn't I be "nice" to you?
In a "**Simple Squeeze Play**" the Declarer leads a card that forces a Defender to either discard a "winner" or

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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.

unguard a "protected" "winner" (e.g., discard the 7 in a K,7 holding so that your Ace can then "drop" the Opponent's King). For example, let's say after **10** Tricks have been played during your **NT** contract the 4 Hands now hold the following **3** cards:

	Dummy	
	S: 6	
	H: A J	
	D:	
	C:	
WEST		EAST
S: 3		S: A
H: 4 2		H: K Q
D:		D:
C:		C:
	YOU	
	S: K	
	H: 5	
	D: 8	
	C:	

In this situation over the previous **10** Tricks you have "stripped" your Opponents of all their cards in **2** Suits. On Trick **#11** you lead the "**Squeeze Card**", your Diamond 8, and "squeeze" EAST into unavoidably playing one of his "busy" "winners" thus gaining an "extra" Trick. You can read more about the "**Simple Squeeze Play**" by going to the "**Esther Bridge Dialogue Lesson**", "**How as Declarer to Execute an Endplay 'Squeeze'**":

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

Bruce: Errr, well, Ms. Klinktoast..., err, I mean Esther. Well, now would you tell us what a "**Jettison Play**" is?

Esther: Well, my *gracious giver*, I will certainly try to help you! A "**Jettison Play**", or a "**Jettison Squeeze Play**", occurs when Declarer holds a "menace" card that is blocked by a "high" card in the Dummy, or vice versa. Here is an example drawn from Jeff Tang's web posting, "Jettison Squeeze",² on his "BridgeBum" website. The Declarer, SOUTH, is on lead after Trick **#10**:

² See: https://www.bridgebum.com/jettison_squeeze.php

	Dummy	
	NORTH	
	S: <u>K</u> 9	
	13 11	
	H:	
	D:	
	C: A	
	12	
WEST		EAST
S: A		S: T
11		13
H:		H: 4 3
		12 11
D:		D:
C: 9 8		C:
13 12		
	YOU	
	SOUTH	
	S:	
	H: <u>Q</u>	
	11	
	D:	
	C: T <u>2</u>	
	13 12	

The "winning" card is **bolded**. The led card is underlined.

Here as Declarer on Trick #11 in a Heart Suit contract you lead your Heart Queen. WEST is then "squeezed." If WEST discards his Spade Ace, Declarer SOUTH discards the NORTH Dummy Spade 9, and the NORTH Dummy's Spade King is "promoted" into a "winner". Then on Trick #12 SOUTH leads his own Club 2 to the NORTH Dummy Club Ace and on Trick #13 NORTH Dummy also "wins" Trick #13 with the Spade King.

	Dummy	
	NORTH	
	S: K 9	
	13 12	
	H:	
	D:	
	C: A	
	11	
WEST		EAST
S: A		S: T
13		13
H:		H: 4 3
		12 11
D:		D:
C: 9 8		C:
12 11		
	YOU	
	SOUTH	
	S:	
	H: <u>Q</u>	
	11	
	D:	
	C: T <u>2</u>	
	12 13	

The "winning" card is **bolded**. The led card is underlined.

If WEST on Trick #11 instead discards a Club then Declarer SOUTH must "jettison" the Club Ace from the NORTH Dummy. Declarer SOUTH will then "win" Tricks #12 and #13 from his own "closed" Hand.

Bruce: Errr, well, Esther... Ummm... Can you give us yet another example?

Esther: Well, my *studly Studebaker*, yes, I will do that. Here is an example that Jeff Tang drew from famous world-class bridge player Terrence Reese (1913 - 1996) that was presented in his influential 1974 bridge book, Master Play in Contract Bridge. Declarer SOUTH is playing a 2NT contract. After 10 Tricks SOUTH is "on lead".

	Dummy	
	NORTH	
	S: Q T	
	H: K	
	D:	
	C:	
WEST		EAST
S: K		S: J
H: T 6		H: 8 5
D:		D:
C:		C:
	YOU	
	SOUTH	
	S:	
	H: J 9	
	D: T	
	C:	

On Trick #11 Declarer SOUTH leads his Diamond Ten "winner" to "squeeze" WEST. WEST "threw" a Heart. Now SOUTH must "**jettison**" the NORTH Dummy's Heart King, otherwise SOUTH will "win" in the NORTH Dummy and be "blocked" from returning to his own Hand to then "cash" his 2 Heart "winners".

Bruce: Errr, well, Esther... Thank you very much. Can you now give an example of a "**Jettison Play**" that involves an entire Board?

Esther: Well, Bruce, I will try to help you. On my "**Esther Bridge Lessons**" website I have previously recommended the "**BBO Bridge Master**" free lessons:

<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. Note that across repeated play "**BBO Bridge Master**" may change some Hands in given lessons. Here I am going to use as an example Board a Board used in the **Bridge Master** Level 5 Lesson **A-08**. I may have altered some cards in some Hands.

BBO Bridge Master Level 5 Lesson A-08

Dealer: **NORTH**

NORTH (13)

S: --

H: Q 3

D: Q J T 9

C: A K J 9 8 7 6

WEST (3)

S: Q 8 7 6 4

H: J T 9 8 6

D: 2

C: 5 4

EAST (9)

S: 5 3 2

H: 7 5 4 2

D: A K 3

C: Q 3 2

SOUTH (15)

S: A K J T 9

H: A K

D: 8 7 6 5 4

C: T

Bidding

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 C	PASS	1 S	PASS
2 C	PASS	2 D	PASS
3 D	PASS	3 NT	PASS
PASS	PASS		

WEST leads the Heart Jack thus "promising" "touching" Heart Honors and a "long" Suit. Declarer SOUTH "wins" Trick #1 in his "closed" Hand with the Heart Ace.

Bruce: Errr, well, Esther... Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "certain" "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see?

Esther: Well, Bruce, Declarer SOUTH sees as "certain" "winners" 2 Spades, the Spade A,K, 2 Hearts, and 2 Clubs, the Club A,K, for a total of $2 + 2 + 2 = 6$ Tricks.

Bruce: Well, OK, Esther, where can Declarer SOUTH "promote" additional "winners"?

Esther: Well, my *curious carnivore*, once the NORTH Dummy is exposed Declarer SOUTH sees that N/S together initially held $0 + 5 = 6$ Spades, $2 + 2 = 4$ Hearts, $4 + 5 = 9$ Diamonds, and $7 + 1 = 8$ Clubs. Because the E/W Opponents hold $13 - 8 = 5$ Clubs, an "odd" number, the most likely

Club "split" is the most *nearly-equal* 3-2 "split". The probability of a 3-2 "split" is **67.8%**.³

If the 3-2 Club "split" indeed occurs and the Opponent holding the Club Queen holds the Club Q,x then N/S will "win" **7** Club Tricks! The **10** possible 3-2 "splits"⁴ are:

1.	Q 5 4	3 2
2.	Q 5 3	4 2
3.	Q 5 2	4 3
4.	Q 4 3	5 2
5.	Q 4 2	5 3
6.	Q 3 2	5 4
7.	5 4 3	Q 2
8.	5 4 2	Q 3
9.	5 3 2	Q 4
10.	4 3 2	Q 5

Even if the Clubs "split" 3-2 only **40%** of the 3-2 "splits" involve the Club Queen being held within a doubleton.

Of course, the biggest challenge is that SOUTH holds only **1** Club "entry" into the NORTH Dummy using a Club lead. And the Dummy provides few other entries at least until play has considerably advanced!

Bruce: Esther, do you agree that Diamonds are not very promising for SOUTH to "promote" extra Tricks because E/W will repeatedly "attack" Hearts?

Esther: Well, Bruce, yes indeed, I do agree with you. On Trick **#2** Declarer SOUTH should "cash" his Spade Ace and discard a "low" Diamond from the NORTH Dummy. On Trick **#3** Declarer SOUTH should "cash" his Spade King and discard another "low" Diamond from the NORTH Dummy.

On Tricks **#4** and **#5** Declarer SOUTH "cashes" the NORTH Dummy's Club A,K. Both EAST and WEST "follow" but the E/W

³Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see: "**8 Different Categories of Important Bridge Probabilities/Statistics, and How These Help Guide Your Bidding and Play**":

https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/8_probs.pdf

⁴The number of 3-2 "split" "combinations" equals

$$\begin{aligned}
 &5! / [3! \times (5 - 3)!] = \\
 &[5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1] / [(3 \times 2 \times 1) \times (2 \times 1)] = \\
 &120 / [6 \times 2] = \\
 &120 / 12 = \mathbf{10}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Club Queen does not "fall" even though the E/W Clubs did indeed "split" 3-2, as was fairly likely.

Bruce: Oh, my, Esther. On Trick #6 Declarer SOUTH leads a "low" Club from the NORTH Dummy to concede a Club Trick to E/W but also "promote" the remaining 4 Clubs in the NORTH Dummy. Holding no more Clubs what should Declarer SOUTH discard on Trick #6?

Esther: Well, Bruce, it is now time for Declarer to "jettison" his own Heart Ace to "unblock" the NORTH Dummy Heart Queen as a later "entry" to the Dummy's 4 Club "winners". After 6 Tricks N/S have "won" 5 Tricks and N/S have "won" 1 Trick. The 7 cards now held in the 4 Hands are:

NORTH (13)		
S:	--	
H:	Q	
D:	Q J	
C:	J 9 8 7	
WEST (3)		EAST (9)
S:	Q 8	S: 5
H:	T 9 8 6	H: 7 5 4
D:	2	D: A K 3
C:		C:
SOUTH (15)		
S:	J T 9	
H:		
D:	8 7 6 5	
C:		

EAST is "on lead". If on Tricks #7 and #8 EAST "cashes" the 2 Diamond A,K "winners" Declarer SOUTH's remaining 2 Diamonds will both be "promoted". If on Trick #7 EAST leads a Spade WEST will "win" but the remaining 2 Spades held by Declarer SOUTH will be "promoted". E/W are likely to "win" the Diamond A,K and the Spade Queen but Declarer SOUTH will make his 3NT contract thanks to a "Jettison Play".



Esther says:

Why not proceed *immediately* to “**Bridge Base Online Bridge Master**” Level-5 Lesson #**A-08** to practice making an “*Jettison Play*” on this Board? Search “BBO”, then Click “Bridge Master”, then Click “Play”, then Click “Level 5”, then Click “**A-08**”. You can play this Board *repeatedly* in Bridge Master for *free*!

Esther also says:

Richard Pavlicek on his “For Bridge Players” website has posted a “Jettison Jamboree” web page which allows you to further practice the “**Jettison Play**”:

<http://www.rpbridge.net/7j62.htm>

About Pavlicek...

Richard Pavlicek (1945-) has won **11** North American Bridge Championships, including a record-setting **3** straight wins in the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, 1982-84, and again in 1990. He won the 1973 inaugural Grand National Teams tournament and repeated a win there in 1997. He has written or co-authored several bridge books, including with co-author William S. Root their 1981 book, Modern Bridge Conventions. From 1984 until 1990 Pavlicek was the Bridge Columnist for the Fort Lauderdale News and Sun-Sentinel.