

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0122:  
"As Declarer, 'Placing' Missing Honors by  
'Listening to the Auction' and What  
Opponents Do, and Do Not, Play"**

**Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen<sup>1</sup>**

To return to the "Esther Bridge Lessons," CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/index.html>

To return to the "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quizzes", CLICK:

<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz.html>

Esther on her "**Esther Bridge Lessons**" website has previously recommended the "**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. The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" question is drawn from "**BBO Bridge Master**" Level-2 **Lesson B-24**. Note that across repeated play "**BBO Bridge Master**" may change some Hands in given lessons. Esther may have altered the auction and/or some cards on some Boards.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](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.

## Board B-24, Level 2

NORTH (7)

**S:** 4 3 2  
**H:** 4 3 2  
**D:** K J 3 2  
**C:** Q J T

WEST (16)

**S:** A K J 6  
**H:** 7 6 5  
**D:** A 7  
**C:** A 9 8 5

EAST (2)

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

SOUTH (13)

**S:** Q 5  
**H:** A K Q J T 9  
**D:** 5 4  
**C:** K 3 2

### Bidding

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
1 <b>NT</b>	PASS	PASS	2 <b>H</b>
PASS	3 <b>H</b>	PASS	PASS
PASS			

1. On Trick #1 WEST leads the Spade Ace and thus "promising" the Spade King and "asking" Partner EAST once the NORTH Dummy comes down to "signal" whether EAST can take Trick #3 in Spades either (1) with the Spade Queen or (2) by ruffing. The NORTH Dummy comes down. What "certain" "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. Upon "winning" Trick #1 WEST on Trick #2 shifts to Diamonds and leads his Diamond 7. If EAST holds the Diamond A,Q E/W are likely to "win" 2 Diamond Tricks and later the Spade King, and the contract will be "set". In order to avoid losing 2 Diamond Tricks Declarer SOUTH must "place" the Diamond Ace. Where is the Diamond Ace? How does Declarer SOUTH know this?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0122\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0122_a1.pdf)