

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0154:
"Playing a Suit Contract as Declarer When
Dummy is 'Short' in Trump
But Contains an A,x Doubleton"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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 A-6**. Note that across repeated play "**BBO Bridge Master**" may change some Hands in given lessons. Esther may have altered some cards in some Hands.

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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.

Dealer: **SOUTH**

Board A-6, Level 2

NORTH (6)

S: 6 5 4 3

H: 9 8 7

D: A Q

C: 5 4 3 2

WEST (1)

S: J 8 7 2

H: 6 2

D: 7 6 5

C: T 9 8 7

EAST (12)

S: A T 9

H: 5 4 3

D: K J T 9 8

C: A 6

SOUTH (21)

S: K Q

H: A K Q J T

D: 4 3 2

C: K Q J

Bidding²

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2 C	PASS	2 D	PASS
3 H	PASS	4 H	PASS
PASS	PASS		

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Heart 2 against SOUTH's 4**H** contract which SOUTH "wins" in his Hand. Once the NORTH Dummy comes "down" Declarer SOUTH sees that he will "lose" to the E/W Spade and Club Aces.

SOUTH in his "closed" (hidden) Hand sees 2 Diamond "losers". SOUTH **must** find a way to "dump" these "losers" or else his contract will be "set". On Trick #2 SOUTH can try to finesse toward the NORTH Dummy Diamond A,Q.

1. Should Declarer SOUTH try this Diamond finesse on Trick #2?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0154_a1.pdf

² Esther has altered the bidding here. The 2**C** opening is made because SOUTH sees 8+ "Quick" Tricks. NORTH's 2**D** response in the system N/S are playing is "artificial" and shows an Ace or a "protected" King.