

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0161:
"Playing a NT Contract as Declarer
When Opponents Were Silent During the Auction"**

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 B-27**. 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 B-27, Level 2

NORTH (9)

S: A 4 2

H: 4

D: 4 3 2

C: A J T 5 4 2

WEST (11)

S: J T 9 7

H: Q J T 9

D: A 8 6 5

C: K

EAST (3)

S: 8 6 5

H: K 8 7 6 5

D: 7

C: 9 8 7 6

SOUTH (17)

S: K Q 3

H: A 3 2

D: K Q J T 9

C: Q 3

Bidding

SOUTH

WEST

NORTH

EAST

1NT

PASS

3NT

PASS

PASS

PASS

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Heart Queen that "tops" his "promised" 3-card "touching Honors" sequence.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy comes "down" how many "losers" can the SOUTH Declarer see in the N/S Hands?
2. What should Declarer SOUTH play on Trick #1?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0161 a1.pdf>