

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0202:
"When Playing a 3NT Contract as Declarer
Do You Know When to *Abhor*
Both the '*Bath Coup*' and the '*Rule of 7*'?"**

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 C-25**. 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, the purported ACBL Double Triple Emerald Gold Platinum LifeMaster with 20+ million ACBL MasterPoints, in fact is a hypothetical, and not a real person! So, this article was really, really written by Bruce Thompson.

BBO Bridge Master Level 2 Lesson C-25

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (10)

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

WEST (8)

S: K Q T 9 8
H: Q J T
D: 8 6 5
C: 5 3

EAST (6)

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

SOUTH (16)

S: A J 3
H: A 3
D: K 3 2
C: K J T 9 7

Bidding

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

WEST leads the Spade King on Trick #1 thus "promising" "long" Spades either the "top" 3 Spades or a Spade "tenace" (i.e., (K,Q,J,x or K,Q,T,x,x).

1. Once the Dummy comes down Declarer SOUTH sees that holding the Spade A,J,3 in his own "closed" Hand he can execute a "Bath Coup" on Trick #1. Declarer SOUTH also sees that N/S together hold $3 + 3 = 6$ Spade cards, and thus the "Rule of 7" suggests that SOUTH should "duck" Spades $7 - 6 = 1$ Round of Spades. What Spade cards should Declarer SOUTH play on Trick #1?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0202_a1.pdf