

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0217:
**"Counting HCPs During Play of the Hand: As
Bridge Declarer Listen to the Opponents' PASSes
During the Auction to 'Place' Missing Honors"**

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-3 **Lesson B-09**. Note that across repeated play "**BBO Bridge Master**" may change some Hands in given lessons. Esther may have altered some cards in some Hands.

© Copyright, Bruce Thompson, 2025. All rights reserved.

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 3 Lesson B-09

Dealer: **WEST**

NORTH (8)

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

WEST (11)

S: 9 8
H: A K 5
D: 8 7 6 4
C: A 6 5 4

EAST (9)

S: Q 7 2
H: 8 7 6 4
D: A K 5
C: 9 8 7

SOUTH (9)

S: A J 6 3
H: 9 3 2
D: Q J T
C: K J T

Bidding

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
PASS	PASS	PASS	1 S
PASS	2 S	PASS	PASS
PASS			

On Tricks **#1** and **#2** WEST "cashes" his Heart A,K. On Trick **#3** WEST leads a Diamond and EAST "cashes" first his Diamond Ace and then on Trick **#4** his Diamond King.

Declarer SOUTH can see that he also will "lose" **1** more Trick to the E/W Club Ace. So, Declarer SOUTH must not "lose" a **6th** Trick to the E/W Trump Spade Queen or his contract will fail. SOUTH **must** correctly "place" the "missing" Trump Spade Queen.

On Trick **#5** EAST leads a "low" Heart and Declarer SOUTH "wins" in the NORTH Dummy with the Heart Queen.

1. What card should Declarer lead from the NORTH Dummy to determine which E/W Opponent holds the "missing" Trump Spade Queen?
2. Once Declarer SOUTH determines which E/W Opponent holds the "missing" Trump Spade Queen how should Declarer SOUTH then play?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0217_a1.pdf