

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0218:
"Counting Cards 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-10**. Note that across repeated play "**BBO Bridge Master**" may change some Hands in given lessons. Esther may have altered some cards in some Hands.



Esther says:

In "**Esther 'Pop' Quiz #217**" Esther argued that counting **HCPs** during the play of the Hand is critical. Now Esther argues that counting **cards** during the play of the Hand is also vital!

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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 3 Lesson B-10

Dealer: **EAST**

NORTH (8)

S: 8 7 6 4
H: 6 5 4
D: K Q 3
C: K T 2

WEST (7)

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

EAST (10)

S: 5 3 2
H: A Q J T 9 8
D: 5 2
C: Q J

SOUTH (15)

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

Bidding

EAST	SOUTH	WEST	NORTH
2H	2S	3H	3S
PASS	4S	PASS	PASS
PASS			

On Tricks **#1** WEST leads his Heart King which EAST overtakes with his Heart Ace. On Trick **#2** EAST "cashes" his Heart Queen. On Trick **#3** EAST leads his Heart Jack and SOUTH ruffs. WEST overruffs with his Trump Spade Ace. Now Declarer SOUTH must "win" every remaining Trick to "make" his **4S** contract.

On Trick **#4** WEST returns a Diamond and Declarer SOUTH "wins" in his "closed" (hidden) Hand.

1. What Trump Spade "split" should Declarer SOUTH consider most likely, and how are the "missing" Trump Spade cards likely "placed"?
2. Should Declarer SOUTH on Trick **#5** begin to "draw" Trump?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0218_a1.pdf