

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0224:  
"Promoting' Winners as Declarer When Playing  
What Appear to be Bleak 3NT Contracts"**

**Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen<sup>1</sup>**

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 C-01**. 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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<sup>1</sup> 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](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 C-01**

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (9)

**S:** 6 4 3  
**H:** A J 3  
**D:** 6 5  
**C:** A 8 4 3 2

WEST (7)

**S:** A Q 9 8 7  
**H:** 6 4  
**D:** J 9 8  
**C:** T 9 6

EAST (8)

**S:** T 5  
**H:** T 9 8 7 5  
**D:** Q T 6  
**C:** K Q J

SOUTH (16)

**S:** K J 2  
**H:** K Q 2  
**D:** A K 4 3 2  
**C:** 7 5

**Bidding**

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

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Spade 8, 4<sup>th</sup> from the "top" of his "longest and strongest" Suit, thus enabling Partner EAST to use the "**Rule of 11**" to determine how many Spades higher than the Spade 8 Declarer SOUTH holds, and Declarer SOUTH to determine how many Spades higher than the Spade 8 EAST holds.

1. What "winning" N/S Tricks can Declarer SOUTH see once the NORTH Dummy is exposed?
2. Who is the E/W "**Danger Player**", EAST or WEST?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0224\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0224_a1.pdf)