

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0227:
"When Playing a 3NT Contract as Declarer
Playing Safely When There May Be an *Unlikely*
But *Deadly* Suit 'Split':
The '*Distribution Safety Play*' "**

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 C-18**. Note that across repeated play "**BBO Bridge Master**" may change some Hands in given lessons. Esther may have altered some cards in some Hands.

You may *also* be interested "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz #226": "**When Playing a Suit Contract as Declarer Is It Better to Play for the More Likely 'Split' or to Be Safe and Protect Against the Unlikely 'Split'? : The '*Distribution Safety Play*'"**":

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0226_q.pdf

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.

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BBO Bridge Master Level 3 Lesson C-18

Dealer: **NORTH**

NORTH (8)

S: 3 2

H: 5 3

D: A K J 5 4 3 2

C: 7 6

WEST (8)

S: Q J T 9 8 5

H: K 7 6

D: Q T 9 7

C: --

EAST (6)

S: 7 6 4

H: Q J T 9 8

D: --

C: Q J T 9 8

SOUTH (18)

S: A K

H: A 4 2

D: 8 6

C: A K 5 4 3 2

Bidding

NORTH

3**D**

PASS

EAST

PASS

PASS

SOUTH

3**NT**

WEST

PASS

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Spade Queen from the "top" of a "touching" card sequence within his Spade tenace.

1. What does NORTH's 3**D** bid show his Partner, SOUTH?
2. Why did SOUTH set the final contract at 3**NT**?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0227_a1.pdf