

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0228:
**"When Playing a 3NT Contract as Declarer,
Exploring 'Splits' and 'Unblocking' Possibly-
Necessary Finesses for Later Play, If Needed"**

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-13**. 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 3 Lesson C-13

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (7)

S: 4 3 2
H: A K T
D: 6 5 4 3 2
C: 5 4

SOUTH (20)

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

Bidding

<i>SOUTH</i>	<i>WEST</i>	<i>NORTH</i>	<i>EAST</i>
2NT	PASS	3NT	PASS
PASS	PASS		

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Heart 9 as the "top" of a sequence of "touching" cards. Declarer SOUTH "wins" Trick #1 in the NORTH Dummy with the Heart King.

1. Declarer SOUTH can finesse against the E/W Heart Queen by playing through WEST as having the Heart Queen. Should Declarer SOUTH take an early Heart finesse?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0228_a1.pdf