

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0236:
"When Playing 3NT as Declarer 'Ducking' on
Trick #1 in Order to Save the Contract"**

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 D-02**. 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 D-02

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (14)

S: 5 3 2

H: K Q 4

D: Q 3 2

C: A K 5 3

SOUTH (14)

S: A K Q J

H: 5 3 2

D: K J T 9

C: 4 2

Bidding

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

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Heart Jack, either the "top" Heart in a "touching" Heart sequence or the "top" of an interior sequence with WEST also holding a "higher" Honor.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What Heart in the NORTH Dummy should Declarer SOUTH play on Trick #1?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0236_a1.pdf