

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0260:
"This Time 'BBO Bridge Master' Let's You
Repeatedly Practice the Bridge 'Ruffing Finesse'
Which Can Sometimes 'Save your Bacon' "**

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>

There are numerous types of bridge finesses ranging from the "simple finesse" to the "double finesse", the "intra-finesse",² and the "two-way finesse". Another very useful finesse is the "**ruffing finesse**".

As noted by Jeff Tang on his excellent "BridgeBum" website in his posting "Ruffing Finesse", "A ruffing finesse" occurs when [D]eclarer holds a [touching card] sequence in one [H]and a void in the other [Hand]".³ In Larry Cohen's bridge article, "A Ruffing Finesse", on his excellent "Larry Cohen Bridge" website:

<https://www.larryco.com/bridge-articles/a-ruffing-finesse>

Cohen also gives examples of the "ruffing finesse".

The *free* "**BBO Bridge Master**" Level-4 **Lesson B-04** gives you the opportunity to see and *repeatedly practice* running a "**ruffing finesse**". Esther on her "**Esther Bridge Lessons**" website has

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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.

² Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see: "Esther Bridge Dialog Lesson #140": "**The 'Intra-Finesse': A Specialized Finesse for Advanced/Advancing Bridge Players**":

<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/intra-fin.pdf>

³ See: https://www.bridgebum.com/ruffing_finesse.php

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. Esther may have altered some of the cards in the Board.

BBO Bridge Master Level 4 Lesson B-04

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (16)

S: Q J
H: K T 9 8
D: A Q T 4 2
C: A 3

WEST (4)

S: T 9 8 7 3
H: 7
D: 6
C: K J 8 7 6 5

EAST (13)

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

SOUTH (7)

S: 4 2
H: A Q J 6 4 3 2
D: 9 3
C: 4 2

Bidding

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

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Spade Ten, the "top of nothing". On Tricks #1 and #2 EAST "cashes" the Spade A,K. On Trick #3 EAST exits by leading his Trump Heart singleton. On Trick #3 the E/W Trump Heart "split" proves to be 1-1 and all the E/W Trump Spade cards have been "drawn".

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What dangers should Declarer SOUTH see?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0260_a1.pdf