

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0267:
"Playing 3NT as Declarer When You Face a
'Danger Player' and a 'Danger Suit'"**

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. Here we use the *free* "**BBO Bridge Master**" Level-4 **Lesson B-17** which gives you the opportunity to see and *repeatedly practice* playing a given bridge Board.

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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 4 Lesson B-17

Dealer: **WEST**

NORTH (11)

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

WEST (8)

S: A Q 9 8 7 6
H: 9 7
D: Q
C: 9 8 7 6

EAST (6)

S: T 3
H: Q J T 8
D: T 9 8 7
C: Q J T

SOUTH (15)

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

Bidding

| WEST | NORTH | EAST | SOUTH |
|------------|------------|------|------------|
| 2S* | PASS | PASS | 2NT |
| PASS | 3NT | PASS | PASS |
| PASS | | | |

*E/W by Partnership Agreement are playing a 2-level pre-empt bid as requiring (1) **6** cards and (2) either (a) **2** of the 3 "top" Honors or (b) **3** of the 5 "top" Honors. This bid "limits" the bidder's Hand and the bidder will not bid again unless Partner asks him a question.

WEST leads his Spade 8, the 4th from the "top" of his "longest and strongest" Suit so that EAST can use the "Rule of 11"² to determine exactly how many Spades higher than the Spade 8 Declarer SOUTH holds (and Declarer SOUTH can determine exactly how many Spades higher than the Spade 8 EAST holds). Because $11 - 8 = 3$ and the NORTH Dummy holds **1** Spade higher than the Spade 8 and Declarer holds **1** card higher than the Spade 8 therefore SOUTH knows that EAST holds $3 - 1 - 1 = 1$ Spade card higher than the Spade 8. On Trick **#1** Declarer SOUTH plays the NORTH Dummy Spade Jack and the Spade Jack "wins".

1. Once the NORTH Dummy has been exposed what "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see?

² See "Esther Bridge Dialogue Lesson #25": "Some of the 40 or So Bridge Bidding/Play "Rules": <https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/rules.pdf>

2. *What if any Suit is the "Danger Suit" that SOUTH must be aware of?*

3. *Which Opponent is the "Danger Player"?*

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:

https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0267_a1.pdf