

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0276:  
"Opponents Opened 2S, You Overcalled 2NT and  
Partner Set the Final Contract at 3NT:  
Removing the 'Danger Player' from the Lead"**

**Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen<sup>1</sup>**

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-24** which gives you the opportunity to see and *repeatedly practice* playing a given bridge Board.

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<sup>1</sup> 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](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-24**

Dealer: **WEST**

NORTH (8)

**S:** 5 4  
**H:** A 5 4  
**D:** A 5 4 3  
**C:** 7 6 5 4

WEST (7)

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

EAST (9)

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

SOUTH (16)

**S:** A 3 2  
**H:** K 3 2  
**D:** K 2  
**C:** A Q T 3 2

**Bidding**

WEST	NORTH	EAST	SOUTH
<b>2S</b>	PASS	PASS	<b>2NT</b>
PASS	<b>3NT</b>	PASS	PASS
PASS			

WEST leads the Spade King as the "top" of "touching" Honors in his bid Major.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What is the most likely E/W Spade "split"?
3. The bridge "**Rule of 7**"<sup>2</sup> says, "When playing a **NT** contract subtract the number of cards in the led Suit that both the Dummy and you hold from 7 and 'duck' for whatever number of Rounds your answer was greater than 0." Should Declarer SOUTH follow the "**Rule of 7**" in deciding what Spade cards Declarer SOUTH should play on Tricks **#1** and **#2**?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0276\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0276_a1.pdf)

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<sup>2</sup> Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see "Some of the 40 or So Bridge Bidding/Play 'Rules'":  
<https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/rules.pdf>