

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0286:  
"Playing a Difficult 3NT Contract as Declarer:  
When You Absolutely Must Finesse, Do So, and  
'Place' Missing Honors Where They Must Lie  
If You Are to Make Your Contract, and  
Protecting Against a 'Danger Suit'"**

**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 D-05** 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 D-05**

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (4)

**S:** A 5 3  
**H:** 6 5 3  
**D:** 4 2  
**C:** 7 6 5 4 2

WEST (5)

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

EAST (11)

**S:** Q 9 7  
**H:** A 4  
**D:** 8 7 6 5 3  
**C:** A J 8

SOUTH (20)

**S:** J 4 2  
**H:** K Q J 2  
**D:** A K Q J  
**C:** K 3

**Bidding**

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

WEST leads the Heart Ten, the "highest" card in a "touching" sequence in a "long" Suit. EAST "wins" Trick #1 with his Heart Ace and on Trick #2 returns a "low" Heart.

1. After the NORTH Dummy is exposed how many "winners" does Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What must Declarer SOUTH do in order to "make" his **3NT** contract?
3. How many cards do N/S together hold in each Suit? How many cards do E/W together hold in each Suit? What is the "Danger Suit" for N/S?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0286\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0286_a1.pdf)