

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0304:  
"Hone Your Bridge Bidding  
'Hand Evaluation' Skills With These  
7 Michael Berkowitz Hand Comparisons"**

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

To return to the "Esther Bridge Lessons," CLICK:

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The best resource for mastering bridge "Hand Evaluation" skills is the "Hand Evaluation" chapter in Marty Bergen's *wonderful, amazing* 2011 "pocket book", Pish Posh: Tips for Bridge Players. But another wonderful resource is Michael Berkowitz who has won several national bridge championships sometimes playing with 25-time national champion Larry Cohen. Berkowitz, like Cohen, writes a monthly column in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin. The following questions and answers are based on Berkowitz's article, "Small Differences" (p. 48), in the December, 2025 ACBL Bridge Bulletin. Esther has altered some of the cards in the Hands. Each Hand in this "**Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz**" involves all the Hands holding exactly **8** HCPs.

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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.

Partner NORTH opens 1**NT** and your RHO **PASS**es. Sitting SOUTH you hold:

Comparison #1

Hand **A**:    ♠ A J T 9    ♥ K T 9 8    ♦ 4    ♣ T 9 8 6    (8)

Hand **B**:    ♠ 7 6 5 4    ♥ J 4 2    ♦ K 4 2    ♣ A 5 2    (8)

1. Which Hand is the better Hand of these 2 Hands?
2. What would you as Responder bid if you held Hand **A**? What would you as Responder bid if you held Hand **B**?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0304\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0304_a1.pdf)