

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0327: "Some 'Bidding Box' Problems"

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>

These "bidding box" challenges are based on E/W Hands presented by Joshua "Josh" Donn in his article, "The Bidding Box", published in the February, 2026 issue of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin (pp. 42-45, 53, 61). Esther has altered some of the cards in the E/W Hands. Esther herself created the N/S Hands.

About Joshua "Josh" Donn

Josh Donn (1982 -) has won **5** major bridge championships, including the 2006 World Youth Bridge Team Championship, and has placed runner-up in **3** major bridge championships. He has authored a monthly "Bidding Box" column in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin since 2014. He was the *all-time leader* of Richard Pavlicek's monthly bridge bidding polls that ran from 2000 to 2006.

About Bridge Bidding Polls

Bridge bidding polls survey a panel of bridge players about how certain Boards should be bid. The panel might be 12 to 18 nationally-recognized bridge players. Or the poll might be "open" and anyone can participate and the number of participants can run in the hundreds or even the thousands. At the end of the polling period the suggested bids are tabulated and "points" are awarded for different submitted bids on each Board. Because on given Boards *several* different bids are reasonable there are usually not single definitively correct bids!

© Copyright, Bruce Thompson, 2026. All rights reserved.

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.

ACBL has now created a *free* online bridge bidding “app” called the “ACBL Bidding Contest” (“ABC”). The “ABC” is a *weekly* bidding contest for bridge Partners. At the end of each week you can compare your bidding results with hundreds of other Pairs. You can register to participate in “ABC” by going to the website:

<https://bid72.com/abc>

Problem #1

Dealer: **NORTH**

Vul: **NONE**

	NORTH (10)	
	S: K 7 5 3	
	H: A 8 6	
	D: Q 8 7	
	C: J 5	
WEST (6)		EAST (13)
S: T 9		S: A 8
H: T 6		H: Q 7 3 2
D: A 9 6 5 4 3		D: --
C: Q 4 3		C: A K T 9 8 6 2
	SOUTH (11)	
	S: Q J 6 4 2	
	H: K J 9 4	
	D: K J T 2	
	C: 7	

Bidding

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
PASS	1 C	PASS	1 D
PASS	1 H	PASS	2 C
PASS	???		

1. What should EAST bid at his 3rd turn to bid within the auction?

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

<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0327 a1.pdf>