

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0337:  
"When Playing a Suit Contract as Declarer  
(1) 'Placing' the 'Missing' Side Suit Ace and  
(2) Should You 'Duck' or 'Cover' in Your  
Vulnerable Side 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-1 **Lesson A-27** which gives you the opportunity to see and *repeatedly practice* playing a given bridge Board. Esther may have altered some of the cards in the Hands.

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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 1 Lesson A-27**

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (23)

**S:** K 5 3

**H:** 4 2

**D:** A K Q J

**C:** A K Q J

WEST (7)

**S:** Q J 9 7

**H:** A 6 5 3

**D:** 5 4

**C:** 6 5 3

EAST (4)

**S:** A 8 6

**H:** 7

**D:** T 9 8 7 6

**C:** T 9 8 7

SOUTH (6)

**S:** T 4 2

**H:** K Q J T 9 8

**D:** 3 2

**C:** 4 2

**Bidding**

SOUTH

**2H**

PASS

WEST

PASS

PASS

NORTH

**4H**

EAST

PASS

WEST leads the Spade Queen on Trick #1 thus promising (1) "touching" Spade Honors and (2) "long" Spades.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. Where should Declarer SOUTH "place" the "missing" Spade Ace?
3. What Spade card should Declarer SOUTH play from the NORTH Dummy on Trick #1?
4. What Spade card will EAST play on Trick #1?

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

[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0337\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0337_a1.pdf)