

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0357:  
"When Playing a 6NT Contract as Declarer  
'Protecting' Against a *Very Unlikely*  
But *Very Unfavorable* 'Split'**

**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-2 **Lesson C-22** 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 2 Lesson C-22**

Dealer: **NORTH**

**NORTH (16)**

**S:** A K Q 8 4 3  
**H:** 5 3  
**D:** A K 3  
**C:** 5 3

**WEST (3)**

**S:** --  
**H:** Q J T 8  
**D:** 8 7 6 5  
**C:** T 9 8 7 6

**EAST (5)**

**S:** J 9 7 6 5  
**H:** 9 7 6  
**D:** J T 9  
**C:** Q J

**SOUTH (21)**

**S:** T 2  
**H:** A K 4 2  
**D:** Q 4 2  
**C:** A K 4 2

**Bidding**

<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>
<b>1S</b>	PASS	<b>2C*</b>	PASS
<b>3S</b>	PASS	<b>4NT</b>	PASS
<b>5H**</b>	PASS	<b>6NT</b>	PASS
PASS	PASS		

\*N/S are playing the "2 Over 1" convention<sup>2</sup> in which SOUTH's bid of 2C as Responder says, "Partner, I hold (1) 13+ HCPs, (2) 3+ Clubs, and (3) my bid as Responder says nothing about my ability to 'support' your Spades."

\*\*NORTH's 5H bid says, "Partner, I hold 2 Aces."

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Heart Queen from his "longest and strongest" Suit and promises "touching" Honors.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what N/S "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What does WEST's lead suggest about WEST's holdings and what can Declarer SOUTH do to guard against a suggested possible unfavorable holding by EAST?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0357\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0357_a1.pdf)

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<sup>2</sup> Within the "Esther Bridge Lessons" see "Esther Bridge Conventions Lesson #1: '2 Over 1' Bids by Responder to '2 Over 1' Eligible Opening Bids by Partner":  
[https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/2\\_over\\_1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/2_over_1.pdf)