

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0360:
"As Declarer Playing a NT Contract Do NOT
'Promote' a Suit That You
Do NOT Have Time to Develop and
Capitalizing on 'Double Finesse' Opportunities"**

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:

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Within "Esther Bridge Lesson #143" Esther discussed "Larry Cohen's '**3-Step System**' for Planning Declarer's 'Line of Play' for a NT Contract":

https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/3Step_NT.pdf

The 3 steps in Cohen's system for developing an initial "Line of Play" for a Declarer playing a NT contract are, in order:

1. Estimate how many "certain" Tricks you can "win" in your Hand or the Dummy.
2. Next, ask yourself "how might we get more?"
3. Finally, ask yourself, "What will happen if I lose the lead?"

Here we will apply Cohen's 3 steps to a NT Board from the "BBO Bridge Master" website.

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

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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.

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-3 Lesson A-17 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.

BBO Bridge Master Level 3 Lesson A-17

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (5)

S: 5 3 2
H: J 3 2
D: A 9 8 7
C: 4 3 2

WEST (9)

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

EAST (6)

S: 7 6 4
H: K 8 6 5
D: T 6 4
C: K 9 8

SOUTH (20)

S: A K
H: A T 9 7
D: K Q J 2
C: Q J T

Bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2NT	PASS	3NT	PASS
PASS	PASS		

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

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what N/S "winners" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What danger should Declarer SOUTH see based on WEST's lead on Trick #1?
3. Declarer SOUTH sees that E/W hold the "missing" Heart King and Queen. How are the "missing" Heart King and Queen likely to be "placed"?
4. What "Line of Play" should Declarer SOUTH initially follow?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0360_a1.pdf