

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0361:  
"As Declarer Playing a NT Contract  
Executing a Bridge 'Safety Play' "**

**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-3 **Lesson A-29** 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 3 Lesson A-29**

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (9)

**S:** 4 3 2  
**H:** 3 2  
**D:** A K Q T 3 2  
**C:** 7 5

WEST (3)

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

EAST (6)

**S:** 8 6 5  
**H:** 7 6 5 4  
**D:** --  
**C:** K Q J T 9 8

SOUTH (22)

**S:** A K Q  
**H:** A K Q  
**D:** 6 4  
**C:** A 6 4 3 2

**Bidding**

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2 <b>C</b>	PASS	3 <b>D</b>	PASS
3 <b>NT</b>	PASS	6 <b>NT</b>	PASS
PASS			

On Trick #1 WEST leads the Spade Jack from his "longest and strongest" Suit and thereby promises "touching" Honors. WEST leads a Spade because his 3 Suits are roughly equal in length and Suit Quality and the Spade Suit is the highest ranking of his 3 Suits.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed Declarer SOUTH sees that the N/S Diamonds are critical to "making" his 6**NT** contract. E/W together hold  $13 - 6 - 2 = 5$  Diamonds. What are the various "splits" of the 5 E/W Diamonds? What are the probabilities of these various Diamond "splits"?
2. What would be the effects on SOUTH's ability to "make" his 6**NT** contract of these various E/W Diamond "splits"?
3. What "Line of Play" should Declarer SOUTH initially follow?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0361\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0361_a1.pdf)