

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0396:  
"As Declarer Should You Finesse or Play for the  
'Missing' Jack to 'Drop'?"**

**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 A-12** 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 A-12**

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (21)

**S:** A K Q T

**H:** A 8 7 6 5

**D:** A

**C:** A 4 3

WEST (7)

**S:** J 6 5 4

**H:** T 9

**D:** K Q J T 9

**C:** T 2

EAST (6)

**S:** 9 8 7

**H:** K Q J

**D:** 8 7 6 5 4 3

**C:** 5

SOUTH (6)

**S:** 3 2

**H:** 4 3 2

**D:** 2

**C:** K Q J 9 8 7 6

**Bidding**

SOUTH

3C

7C

WEST

PASS

PASS

NORTH

5NT

PASS

EAST

PASS

PASS

On Trick #1 WEST leads his Diamond King thus "promising" either a Diamond K,x doubleton or a "touching" card sequence in a "long" Diamond Suit. SOUTH "wins" Trick #1 with the NORTH Dummy's Diamond Ace singleton.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. On Trick #2 what should Declarer SOUTH do?
3. To "make" his 7C contract Declarer SOUTH **must** "win" 4 Spade Tricks. How should Declarer SOUTH play the N/S Spades?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0396\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0396_a1.pdf)