

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0397:  
"As Declarer Should You Finesse or 'Promote'  
'Low' 'Side' Suit Cards into 'Winners'?"**

**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 B-24** 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 B-24**

Dealer: **NORTH**

**NORTH (15)**

**S:** A 6 5 4 2  
**H:** A 7 6 5  
**D:** A Q J  
**C:** 4

**WEST (5)**

**S:** Q J T 8  
**H:** 4 2  
**D:** 8 6 5 4  
**C:** Q 8 6

**EAST (10)**

**S:** K 9 7  
**H:** 3  
**D:** K T 9 7  
**C:** K J T 9 7

**SOUTH (10)**

**S:** 3  
**H:** K Q J T 9 8  
**D:** 3 2  
**C:** A 5 3 2

**Bidding**

<b>NORTH</b>	<b>EAST</b>	<b>SOUTH</b>	<b>WEST</b>
<b>1S</b>	PASS	<b>2H</b>	PASS
<b>4C</b>	PASS	<b>4NT</b>	PASS
<b>5S</b>	PASS	<b>7H</b>	PASS
PASS	PASS		

On Trick **#1** WEST leads his Trump Heart 2, the NORTH Dummy and EAST "follow", and Declarer SOUTH "wins" with his Trump Heart 8.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. What initial "Line of Play" should Declarer SOUTH follow?
3. What is the most likely "split" of the 13 - 5 - 1 = 7 Spades?
4. Declarer SOUTH can see a finessing opportunity in Diamonds. Should Declarer SOUTH's initial focus be on attempting this Diamond finesse?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:  
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0397\\_a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0397_a1.pdf)