

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0417:
"As a Declarer Playing a Suit Contract
Do You Know How to Use
Your 'Safest' Hand Entry?"**

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:

<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-1 **Lesson B-23** 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.

As the "BBO Bridge Master" **Level 2 Lesson B-03** notes, "Bridge players should have a *good* working knowledge of probabilities of [1] suit breaks and [2] honour [sic] distributions. Many bridge books contain tables of *important* bridge odds. Memorizing a handful of numbers can help solve most problems like this one" (emphases added).

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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.

BBO Bridge Master Level 1 Lesson B-23

Dealer: **SOUTH**

NORTH (26)

S: A K
H: A
D: A K Q J
C: K Q 8 7 6 4

WEST (6)

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

EAST (1)

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

SOUTH (7)

S: Q J 5 4 3 2
H: 3 2
D: 2
C: A 5 3 2

Bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
2 S	PASS	4 NT	PASS
5 D*	PASS	7 S	PASS
PASS	PASS		

*"I hold 1 Ace."

On Trick #1 WEST leads his Heart King as "top" of a "touching" Honor sequence in a "long" Major Suit. Declarer SOUTH "wins" Trick #1 with his Heart Ace.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed Declarer SOUTH sees that N/S together hold $2 + 6 = 8$ Trump Spades and E/W together hold $13 - 2 - 6 = 5$ Trump Spades. What are the various possible 5 card "splits" and what are their probabilities?
2. SOUTH also sees that N/S together hold $6 + 4 = 10$ Clubs and E/W together hold $13 - 6 - 4 = 3$ Clubs. What are the various possible 3 card "splits" and what are their probabilities?
3. After Declarer SOUTH "wins" Trick #1 with the NORTH Dummy's Heart Ace singleton, what should Declarer SOUTH then do next?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0417_a1.pdf