

Esther "Pop" Quiz #0457: "Bidding as Bridge Responder in a 'Competitive' Auction"

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>

It is not unusual to find yourself in a "competitive" auction. When bidding Suit contracts Trump card counts and "side" Suit distributions are often *more* important than HCPs. This is why ACBL LifeMaster James Bond, 007, was able to "make" a **7C DOUBLED REDOUBLED** contract when his Partnership *together* held only 8 HCPs: <https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/moonraker.pdf>

This is also why a bridge Board exists on which (1) all 4 players hold *exactly* 10 HCPs, (2) all 4 players can make a 3NT contract, (3) North and South can *both* make both a 5**D** or a 5**S** contract, and (4) East and West can *both* make both a 5**C** or a 5**H** contract: https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/Mirror_H.pdf

It also is not unusual for both Pairs sitting at the table to *both* hold 8+ card "fits". Indeed, *both* Pairs may hold 2 8+ card "fits" in 2 Suits!

https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/8_probs.pdf

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is drawn from the ideas and examples presented by Marty Bergen in his excellent article, "Improve Your Bidding Judgment", published in the July, 2026 issue of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin (p. 57). All these examples assume that *neither* Pair is Vulnerable and the scoring is MatchPoints. Esther may have altered some of the cards in the Hands.

© Copyright, Bruce Thompson, 2026. All rights reserved.

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.

About Marty Bergen

Marty Bergen (1948 -) is a 10-time National Bridge Champion. Bergen has written a column in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin since 1976. Two of his **69+** bridge books/booklets have won “Best Bridge Book of the Year Awards” from the American Bridge Teachers’ Association. His 1996 book, Points Schmoints!, one of the best book award winners, has been especially influential. One of Esther’s *most treasured* bridge books is Bergen’s 2011 little “pocket book”, Pocket Posh: Tips for Bridge Players. Bergen has invented quite a few bridge conventions/systems including DON’T, Bergen Limit Raises, and in the first few pages of Points Schmoints!, the “**Rule of 20**”.

Each example also assumes that your Partner opens by bidding 1♦ and your RHO bids 2♣. You are in each example sitting as Responder.

1. *What would you bid as Responder at your **1st** turn to bid within the auction if you held:*

♠ A K 7 4 ♥ K Q T 4 2 ♦ J 6 ♣ 6 3 **(13)**

*What would you bid as Responder at your **1st** turn to bid within the auction if instead you held:*

♠ A J 9 6 4 2 ♥ 8 ♦ A 9 4 ♣ 6 3 2 **(9)**

To see Esther’s **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0457_a1.pdf