

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0511:
"When Playing Bridge on Defense Rather Than
'Signal' Why Not 'Do It Yourself'?"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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About Richard Pavlicek

Richard Pavlicek (1945-) has won **11** North American Bridge Championships, including a record-setting **3** straight wins in the Reisinger Board-a-Match Teams, 1982-84, and again in 1990. He won the 1973 inaugural Grand National Teams tournament and repeated a win there in 1997. He has written or co-authored several bridge books, including with co-author William S. Root their 1981 book, Modern Bridge Conventions. From 1984 until 1990 Pavlicek was the Bridge Columnist for the Fort Lauderdale News and Sun-Sentinel. Esther particularly likes the Bridge Simulation Studies presented on his bridge website:

<https://www.rpbridge.net/rpsi.htm>

and his re-posts of his newspaper bridge columns:

<https://www.rpbridge.net/rpc.htm>

The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" is based on the 6/3/90 Pavlicek newspaper bridge column, "The 'Do It Yourself' Rule of Defense".

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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.

Dealer: **SOUTH**

Vul: **E/W**

NORTH (11)

S: A 7 4 3

H: J 5

D: Q J 7

C: K T 6 4

WEST (9)

S: 6

H: K Q 8 6 4

D: K T 6

C: J 9 8 7

EAST (7)

S: K 5 2

H: A 9 2

D: 9 8 5 4 3 2

C: 5

SOUTH (13)

S: Q J T 9 8

H: T 7 3

D: A

C: A Q 3 2

Bidding

SOUTH

WEST

NORTH

EAST

1**S**

PASS

3**S**

PASS

4**S**

PASS

PASS

PASS

On Trick **#1** WEST leads the Heart King as the "top" of "touching" Honors in his "long" Major Suit. EAST plays his Heart 2 to "signal" Partner WEST that he does not "like" Hearts and requests a Suit shift. On Trick **#2** WEST led a Trump Spade and EAST "won" with the Spade King.

1. Once the NORTH Dummy is exposed what "losers" can Declarer SOUTH see?
2. Was WEST's lead of a Trump Spade on Trick **#2** a prudent Suit shift?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
<https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0511 a1.pdf>