

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0521:
"Do You Understand Marty Bergen's Guidelines for
Making a 'Negative DOUBLE'
When Partner Opened and Your RHO Overcalled?"**

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen¹

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The current ideas and examples (which have been slightly modified by Esther) are drawn from Marty Bergen's excellent article, "Better Bridge with Bergen: Improve Your Bidding Judgment" (p. 63), in the September, 2026 issue of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin. Note that *all* ACBL members can access ACBL Bridge Bulletin articles for the last several decades online on the ACBL website for *free*. These examples all assume that neither side is Vulnerable and the bridge scoring (MatchPoints vs IMPs) does not matter.

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**".

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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.

1. Partner opened 1♦ and your RHO Overcalled 2♣. You hold:
♠ A 5 ♥ K Q 7 4 ♦ J 9 8 5 ♣ 6 4 2 (10)
What would you bid as Responder at your 1st turn to bid
within the auction?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0521_a1.pdf