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Esther "Pop" Quiz #0554: "Larry Cohen's Advice About Opening 1NT When You Hold Only 14 HCPs"

Esther Klinktoast-Houstonhousen[1]

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The present "Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz" presents ideas presented by Larry Cohen in his excellent article, "Bidding Basics: 1NT", published in the October, 2026 issue of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin (pp. 53-54).

About Larry Cohen

By the age of 22, **Larry Cohen** had won his first two of **25** National Bridge Championships, the Blue Ribbon Pairs and the prestigious Spingold Teams. Between 1979 and 2008, Cohen won **57** first or second place finishes in national and world competitions. In 2002, the American Contract Bridge League (ACBL) named Cohen "Player of the Year". Cohen is also listed on the ACBL's "Top 10 Living Most Influential Bridge Personalities". In 2020, in his first year of eligibility, Cohen was elected to the ACBL Hall of Fame. Cohen has had long-term bridge partnership with players such as Marty Bergen and David Berkowitz.

Cohen's bridge writings have been massively influential. Cohen for many years has published a monthly column in the ACBL Bridge Bulletin. Cohen has authored numerous books including **6** books that have won the American Bridge Teachers' Association (ABTA) "Bridge Book of the Year Award":

Larry Teaches Modern Bidding Vol. I, II, and III (Self-Published 2020);
On The Other Hand (co-written with David Bird) (2019);
On The Other Hand - Defense (co-written with David Bird) (2020);
Tricks of the Trade (2018);

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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.

Larry Teaches Opening Leads (2014); and
To Bid or Not to Bid: The LAW of Total Tricks (1992).

Esther regards Cohen's 1992 book on the "**Law of Total Tricks**" as probably being the *most important bridge book of all time*! This book is published in 6 different languages and was the best-selling bridge book of the 1990's.

1. *Here are **3** Hands[2] each containing **14** HCPs:*

♠ *A T*	♥ *A T 7*	♦ *A T 8*	♣ *Q T 9 7 6*	***(14)***
♠ *K 4*	♥ *A J T*	♦ *K Q J T 8*	♣ *T 9 3*	***(14)***
♠ *A T 9*	♥ *A Q T*	♦ *6 3*	♣ *K J T 9 6*	***(14)***

What would you bid as Dealer holding each of these Hands?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0554_a1.pdf

[2] Esther has altered some cards in Cohen's examples used in the present "**Esther Bridge 'Pop' Quiz**".