

**Esther "Pop" Quiz #0375:
"Bergen's Better Bridge Bidding:
Some '2 Over 1' Bidding Conundrums"**

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>

Today's bridge bidding questions are drawn from Mart Bergen's excellent article, "Better Bridge with Bergen: Improve Your Bidding Judgment—Cont", in the April, 2026 issue of the ACBL Bridge Bulletin (p. 65, 70). Esther may have altered some of the cards in the examples.

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**".

Marty Bergen in his December, 2024 **ACBL Bridge Bulletin** article noted that "These days, almost all experienced players sensibly play 2/1 ['2 Over 1'] GF [Game Forcing]" (p. 55). While Esther

© 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.

does not agree that a "2/1" bid by Responder insures a Game contract, she does agree that a "2 Over 1" "affirmative" response does insure that both Partners have agreed to set a final contract at least somewhere between 3NT and 4S. Esther, like Bergen, thinks that the "2 Over 1" convention is *essential* because Partners bidding the convention learn *early on* in the bidding whether they can bid Game or instead must play for a part-score contract. Esther teaches the "2 Over 1" convention in her "Esther Bridge Convention Lesson #1: 2 Over 1":

[https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/2 over 1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/pdf/2%20over%201.pdf)

NORTH (12)
S: Q J 8
H: A 4
D: A J T 7 5 2
C: 8 5

SOUTH (12)
S: 5 3
H: K 8 6 5 2
D: K 9 6 3
C: A Q

Bidding

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1H	PASS	2D*	PASS
???			

*NORTH's 2D bid as Responder is a "2 Over 1" response bid saying, "Partner, I hold (1) ~13+ HCPs and (2) 4+ Diamonds. My bid says nothing about whether I can or cannot support your Hearts."

1. Given that N/S are playing the "2 Over 1" convention, what should SOUTH bid at his 2nd turn to bid?

To see Esther's **suggested answers**, CLICK:
[https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0375 a1.pdf](https://esther-bridge.com/quiz/q0375_a1.pdf)