

Mate Accompli

John Bannon

Ryan: It always makes me smile when I read a trick that uses very basic sleight of hand to achieve an incredible effect.

In addition, this impromptu routine John has given us looks completely natural. It wouldn't look any different if you could really do the trick.

There is something about the presentational framing involving the mate of the named card that really helps sell the Card at Any Number plot to laymen. It's almost as if they need a visual cue to follow the effect. If you have ever tried a direct CAAN and been met with silence, you know what I mean.



An Any Mate At Any Number ("AMAAN") routine. It's based on J.K. Hartman's elegant approach from *CAAN Craft*, called "CAAN Kicker." Employing a different search strategy and a different top of deck handling, it's the same concept and structure.

A spectator names a card. The performer removes the card from the deck and places it aside. A second spectator calls out a number from one to fifty-one. The performer counts to the card at the named number, and removes it.

He explains that both the card and the number were predictions. The card, he explains, can't predict itself, but it

can predict its mate—the one other card of the same value and color.

The performer shows the card at the second spectator's number. It is the mate of the named card!

Performance

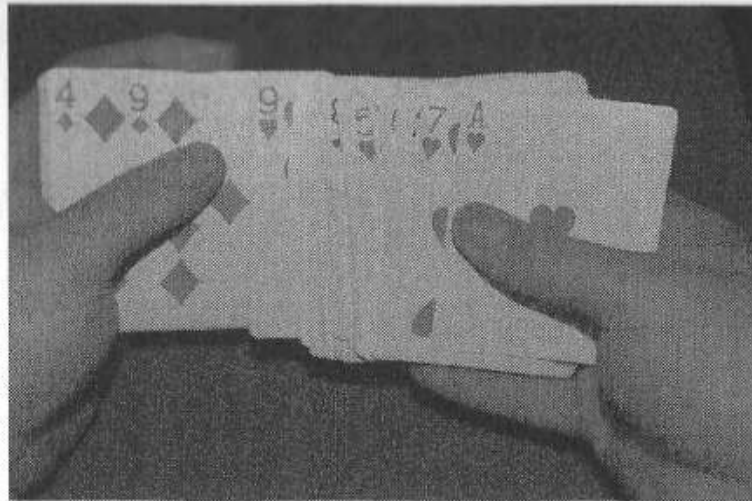
Have the deck shuffled.

Ask Spectator One to name any card. Remove the named card from the deck, but as you do contrive to move the mate of the named card to the top of the deck.

There are a couple of ways to do this. Generally, I cull the first one I come to and, when I come to the second one, throw the appropriate card face up onto the table and cut the deck at that point (bringing the other to the top).

For example, let's say Spectator One calls out the Nine of Diamonds. Begin spreading through the cards until you see *either* the Nine of Diamonds or the Nine of Hearts. Let's say you come to the Nine of Diamonds. Cull it under the spread.

Continue spreading through the cards until you reach the Nine of Hearts. Stop and slightly separate the spread so the Nine is the uppermost card of the right-hand portion. Now with your right fingers, push the culled card to the left so it can be taken at the face of the left-hand portion. **(Photo 83.)**



83

Continuing, fully separate the spread and, with your left hand, toss the Nine of Diamonds face up onto the table. As your left hand returns, place its cards on top of the right hand cards, cutting the deck and leaving the mate, the Nine of Hearts, on top. This is the most efficient cull procedure I've found and it looks the same regardless of which card you come to first.

A second cull strategy: Spread through the cards with the faces toward you, as you look for the named card or its mate.

If you come to the named card first, upjog it. Without pausing, continue spreading through the cards until you see the mate. Separate the spread so the mate is the back card of the right-hand portion. Continuing, with your left hand, take the upjogged named card on the face of the left-hand portion of the spread, and toss it face up onto the table. As your left hand returns, place its cards in front of the right-hand cards, cutting the deck and leaving the mate on top.

If you come to the mate first, continue to spread the cards, but ensure that the mate remains visible. Now, when you come to the named card, upjog it and break the spread so the mate is at the back of the right-hand portion of the spread. Continuing, with your right hand, take the upjogged named card at the back of the right-hand portion of the spread, and

toss it face up onto the table. As your right hand returns, place its cards behind the left-hand cards, cutting the deck and leaving the mate on top.

Turn the named card face down. Say, "*This is a prediction of sorts; we'll come back to it.*"

At this point the effect has not been defined, and the purpose of the named card is similarly uncertain. Calling it a "prediction," while somewhat vague, clarifies that it is not an ultimate target card; it must be predicting something else. The "prediction" label also helps to justify the indirect concept of having a card named in order to implicate its mate.

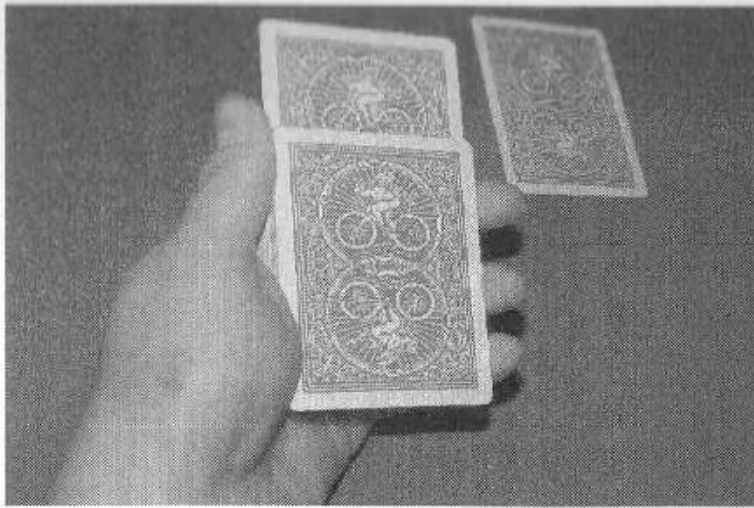
Placing it face down helps to motivate the upcoming switch.

Countdown

We have a card; we need a number. Have a second spectator, Spectator Two, name a number from one to fifty-one (it can't be fifty-two, because you've removed the named card). On one hand, a small to medium number is desirable in the interests of time, attention, and patience. On the other, you do not want to appear to be limiting her choice in any way.

I tell the spectator what we are going to do with her number, "*Jessica, I want you to name a number from one to fifty one. It can be any number. It is also a prediction of sorts. Whichever number you choose, we'll count down to the card at that number.*" Either she will anticipate the tedium that will result from a largish number or, if not, at least she was warned.

Count down to the selected number *without* reversing the order of the cards. Outjog the card at the named number. Square the deck leaving the card outjogged. **(Photo 84.)**



84

Accomplish

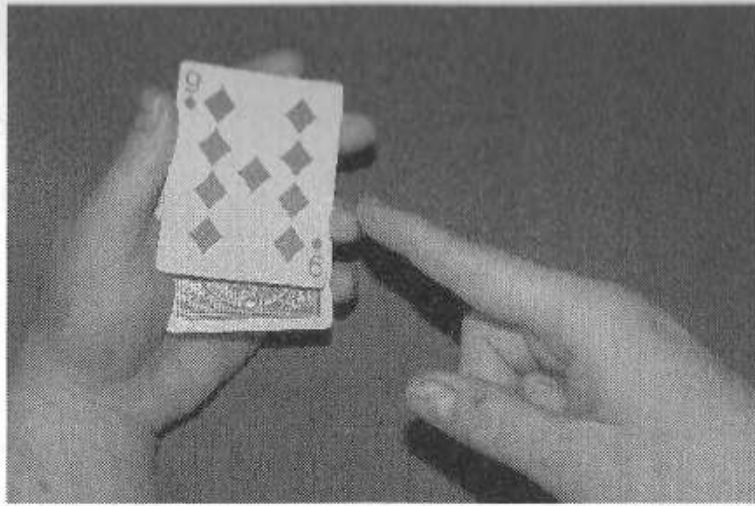
The following sequence of actions is choreographed to bring about a deceptive, psychologically invisible switch of the card-at-the-number for the mate of the named card.

Say, *“Remember, your number was a prediction. You selected the number seventeen, which led us to this card.”*

Remove the outjogged card and flick it gently.

Now, turn your attention to the first spectator, *“And you named a card ...”* Here, place the right-hand card on top of the deck, but hold a pinky break beneath it. The motivation for this action is to free your right hand so it can pick up the named card.

Pick up the named card, which should be face down. Flip it face up onto the deck and immediately lift both cards above the break as one. Hold the back-to-back double at your left thumb tip and second fingertip above and forward of the deck. **(Photo 85.)**

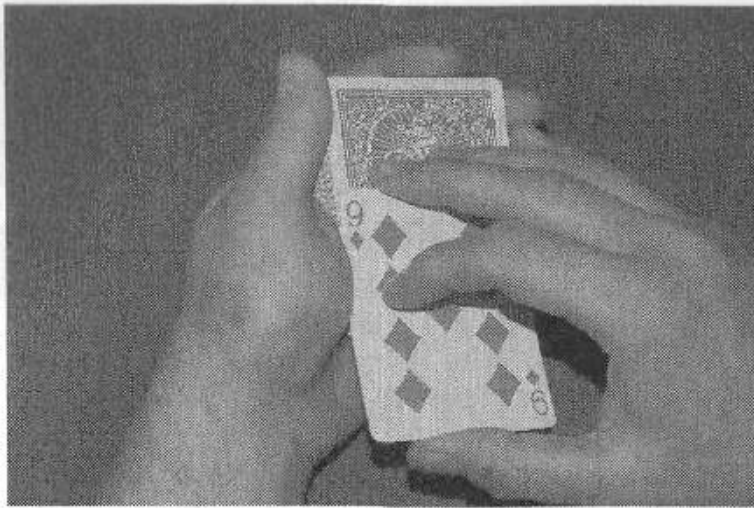


85

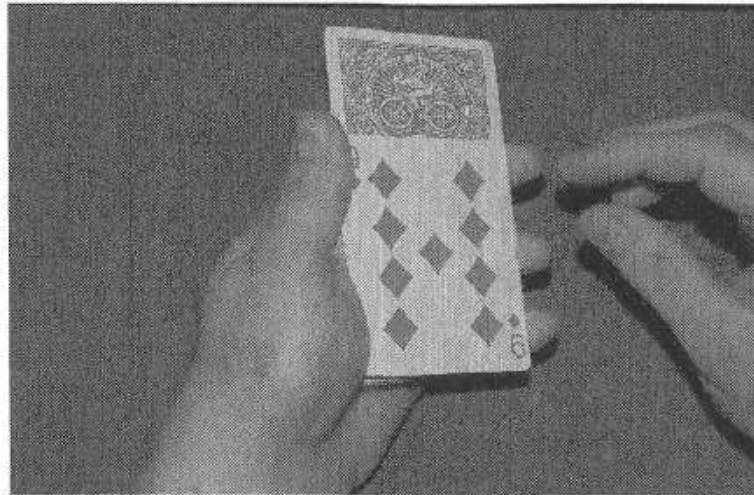
The motivation here is so your right forefinger can point at the face of the named card.

With your right forefinger, point at the face of the named card. Continue, “... and this was a prediction, too. Obviously the *Nine of Diamonds* can’t predict itself, but it can indicate the one other card of the same value and color. There is only one other red Nine in the deck—the *Nine of Hearts*.”

Take the double with your right hand, thumb at the back and second finger at the front. Lower the card and do an Annemann Alignment Move—using your right second fingertip to push the top card of the deck forward as the double card is placed square on the deck. (**Photo 86 and 87.**)



86



87

As you do this, say, *“Two predictions. A red Nine. A card at the seventeenth position. Do you feel lucky?”*

Remove the outjogged card; right now, you are clean and have a tight, clear picture.

Flick the card and snap it face up to show the “any mate at any number.”