

Streamlined Prediction

Let's talk about prediction effects shall we. I'm no mentalist but I do enjoy card pieces with a mental edge and I've always enjoyed card prediction effects. I think it's the window dressing and conditions that can make for a strong and memorable piece. With that in mind, the following is an almost self working approach that appears very fair.

You will need an odd back stranger card, say Seven of Clubs, which you place inside a small pay envelope. Whenever you want to segue into this effect simply manage or cull the matching card in your working deck to the top.

Bring out the envelope and set it to one side on the table. Ribbon spread the deck face down.

“Tom, I'm going to have you make three choices from three different parts of this deck.”

Gesture to different parts of the deck and gather up the cards and hand them to your helper. Ask him to cut off about a third of the deck and table them to your left. Next ask him to give the remaining cards a quick mix, then cut off about half of those and table them to the right of the first packet. Finally have him mix the packet he is holding and table them to the right of the row of packets.

Take off the top card of each packet and place them in front of each packet. Gather up the packets and set the deck aside.

“Sometimes in life you reach a point in the road where you have to make a decision. Should I turn left, bear right or just go straight down the middle? Tom, please make your decision now and simply point to one of those three cards you removed. Let's isolate it face down between the other two cards, which we will turn face up.”

If they point to your force card on your left, you are of course golden and can simply turn the other two cards face up and sandwich the selection face down between it. However, if they point to the middle card of the row, we will use Brother John Hamman's beautiful sandwich switch, from his routine The Signed Card. The left hand picks up the card at the left end of the row as the right hand picks up the card at the right of the row. Bring both hands together and scoop up the selection, placing the left hand card on top and the right hand card underneath. Raise the packet away slightly from the table and immediately pull out the bottom card and place it squarely face up on top of the packet. With no hesitation withdraw the new bottom card, turn it face up and place it to the bottom of the packet.

The switch is complete and you table the sandwich.

If they choose the right end card of the row, you execute the exact same switch, the right hand picking up the middle card and the left hand taking the card at the left of the row. Execute the switch as before and table the sandwich as you mention isolating their card.

5 Professional Routines - John Carey

All that's left is the re-framing, which of course can elevate even a simple piece and ramp it up. State that they shuffled the deck, they took three cards out from three different positions and ultimately decided upon one card. Ask them to pick up the envelope and take out the contents, revealing the Seven of Clubs.

Pause a beat, then remove the face down card from the sandwich and turn it face up to successfully conclude the mystery.

I'll be right back, I must answer this phone call. Walk through this again and I will be back in 10 minutes.

