

## The Phantom Card Returns

*Phantom Card* from *Cardshark* is a good piece of magic. After using it for a few years, I changed the handling so that the *Kings* packet didn't have to go near the deck as it does in

the original handling. In doing that, there are a few other (minor) changes. Read on.

Openly remove the four Kings and arrange them in R, R, B, B order from face to rear. Hold them face down in a tight spread and as you square them against the face-down deck, unload the face (red) King to the top of the deck. (See *Gold Dust* for this handling.) Casually table the King packet; supposedly four Kings.

During a jogshuffle of the deck, add one card to the top so that the red King becomes the second-from-top card. Hold the deck in dealing grip. Catch a break under the top two cards and perform a Braue Reverse as you turn the deck face up. So, the deck is face up and at the rear there are two face-down cards; an X card followed by the red King.

Spread the face-up deck and ask someone to choose any spot card; assume 4C. Remove it from the spread, turn it face down and place it on the bottom of the face-up deck. In the same action, turn the whole deck over into dealing grip. Position check: From the top: face-up 4C, face-up red King, face-up X card and face-down deck.

Ask the spectator to sign the face of her 4C. Flip the triple (three face-up cards) face down onto the deck and place the supposed 4C (actually the X card) into your trouser pocket. Say, "Okay, you've signed your card and it's now securely in my trouser pocket." As you patter, jogshuffle the deck and then cut the deck retaining a break between the two halves. The red King and 4C are now below your break. Say, "I'm now going to place you into a trance!" Click your fingers and say, "Done!" A wink and a smile will ensure that they enjoy the joke.

Riffle Force to the break as you say that you need another card chosen. Cut the deck so that the two-card set-up is back on top. Perform a double lift (leave it face up on the deck) to show the 4C. Say, "Well, it looks like your card, but it can't be. Your card, as we know, is in my pocket!"

Continuing say, "Let's place this phantom card with the Kings!" Here you flip the double face down onto the deck and immediately slide off the top card (the supposed 4C, but actually a red King) and place it into the tabled King packet. "So, the Kings are now guarding this phantom card, this doppelganger, this phoney, this look-alike!"

"Now, I know you don't trust the validity of the pocketed Four of Clubs. You don't, do you!?" Here you palm the top card off the deck and reach into your trouser pocket. Remove the palmed 4C and display it. You should get gasps. Table the 4C to one side. Say, "You are now questioning the validity of the phantom Four of Clubs that's being guarded by the Kings. You are, aren't you!?" To end, show the four Kings as being only four Kings as you end by saying, "Well, it's got me puzzled for sure!"

By the way, don't forget to return the extra pocketed card to the deck for your next trick. Or, as I do, segue into my ambitious card routine (see *Gold Dust*) that utilises the Francis Carlyle pocket dodge!