



PHOTO BY NADIA VILANUEVA

ARTIFICES

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Splitz

TODAY'S EFFECT comes from the "buried" category, in line with the tricks "exhumed" by Jon Racherbaumer in his column. I must admit, it wasn't I who dug up this effect, but rather a young friend and great Argentine magician, Adriano Zanetti. Although he found it elsewhere, this effect appears as "Splitz" in *Pabular* (Vol.3, No.11, 1977) and in Mark Weston's *Ways with Cards* (1994) and is one of the best applications of Bill Simon's "Prophecy Move" I know (and the stand out of the book). My contribution is the selection of the theme, words, and a couple of subtleties.

Effect: "We are going to create a little mystery," says the magician, as he takes a card from his breast pocket, "... and to do it we will use this special card."

The "special" card has a different back from the deck in play. The magician shuffles the deck and asks a spectator to take the special card at their fingertips (photo 1) and to stick it into any point of the deck (photo 2).



"At the moment," says the magician, "this card is between two unknown cards. I say this in case you want to move it to between two other unknown cards farther up or down, or leave it there."

The spectator decides to leave it there. The magician spreads out the deck and explains why the card is special. "It isn't only because it has a beautiful back design, different than the rest, but because ... it has a back on the other side, too."

When you turn over the inserted card the audience discovers that it has an identical back on both sides.

"This card has a back on both sides, but what is interesting is that it indicates two unknown cards to us."

The magician spreads the deck (photo 3) and takes out the special card along with the cards on either side (photo 4). And with the special card in his hand he says, "Do you know how to make a special card like this? Easy. You stick a card to another one."



He peels the special card apart (photo 5) and leaves the two halves face up on the table (photo 6).

"Do you know how we end this mystery? Like so ..." and he turns the two cards from the deck face up to reveal that they match the special cards (photo 7).

Explanation: As you probably understand, there isn't much to explain.



The cards to be forced are on the top and bottom of the deck. The "special card" consists of their duplicates from a contrasting deck, stuck together face to face. I use blu-tack because it doesn't damage the cards and you can reuse them.

The contribution of this presentation is that it is a great example of what Arturo de Ascanio called—and Gabi Pareras embraced—a "double finality." That is when an action, word, or movement has an impact on the hidden ("Internal Life") but also on the overt ("External Life"). In effect, when something we do or say has a meaning, to execute or cover the subterfuge and makes the presentation more interesting. The easiest example to understand is the Faro Shuffle. It is a real shuffle that everyone can see and feel as someone shuffling the cards (External Life), but is—at the same time—building a secret order (Internal Life). In "Splitz" the special card not only incorporates an interesting and attractive prediction, but also covers the secret cut.

Let us get to the details. Once you are in the position in photo 2, start spreading the cards until you reach the special card (photo 8).

Comment that the reason it is special is because there

is a back on both sides as you do Bill Simon's Prophecy Move. For that, the left hand remains immobile and the right hand turns over (photo 9), taking the card with your thumb. Without releasing it, turn the card and packet over and place them under the left-hand packet, completing the cut (photo 10).

Then spread the deck on the table, saying the important part is that the cards on either side of the special card have been selected at random (photo 4).

Take the special card and ask if they know how it is made, then answer, "by sticking two cards together," and peel them apart. Leave them on the table (photos 5 and 6).

Finally ask if they know how the mystery ends and reveal that the cards match.

Notes: The position in photo 4 was suggested by Gabi Pareras as it meets his "Waiter's Theory." Just like old time waiters would glance at what was on the table and they could make the check out for the total, spectators should be able to understand at a glance what happened and under what conditions. In this case the special card was stuck between the two adjacent cards.

Weston made his special card out of a red and a blue card with Pritt glue stick. His justification for the turnover was the lack of contrast in color, which is why the other side was clearly different. •