

Fast Fusion

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Ryan: Most impromptu fusion effects have a similar flaw. Usually, one of the two principal cards is left in an awkward position, like reversed somewhere in the deck. This situation is often portrayed as a non-sequitur effect: *“Your card reverses in the deck ... and the signature has disappeared ... and went to the other card!”*

In the end, impromptu fusion routines can look more like signatures jumping from card to card in a vague magical effect. Robin’s routine overcomes this flaw with some basic handling and an obscure switch by Harvey Rosenthal. It is the most clear and direct impromptu fusion effect I have seen.

The idea of two cards fusing into one belongs to Wesley James. Mr. James created the fusion plot in the mid-1960s, calling it “Forgery,” and later shared it with a few friends in the early 1970s. “Forgery” remained unpublished until James’s 1989 lecture notes *Stop Fooling Us!*

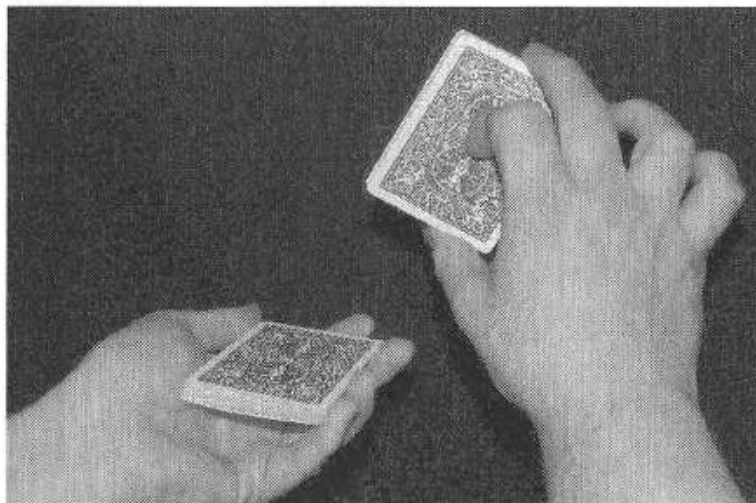
The first time the idea of playing card fusion appeared in print was a trick called “Fusion” by Richard Kaufman, David Arthur, and Gene Maze published in *Cardworks* (1981 Kaufman and Greenberg.)

The plot was later popularized by Doc Eason’s presentation “Anniversary Waltz” which involves a romantic couple.



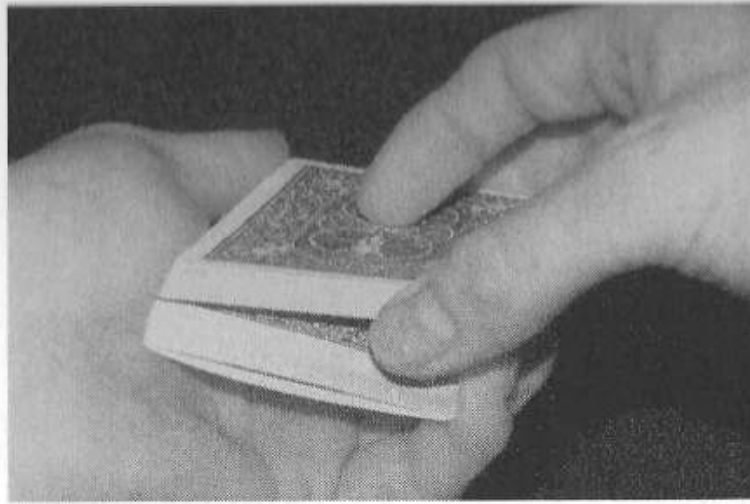
This came about after learning of the Harvey Rosenthal switch that J.K. Hartman used in his effect "Crossed Thoughts" published in *Genii*, Sept. 2015.

Riffle down the deck with the left thumb, as if you were going to do a Riffle Force. When the spectator stops you, legitimately pick up the top half with the right hand in End Grip at the point where she stopped. Show her the card and have her initial it while you're holding the packet. **(Photo 1.)**



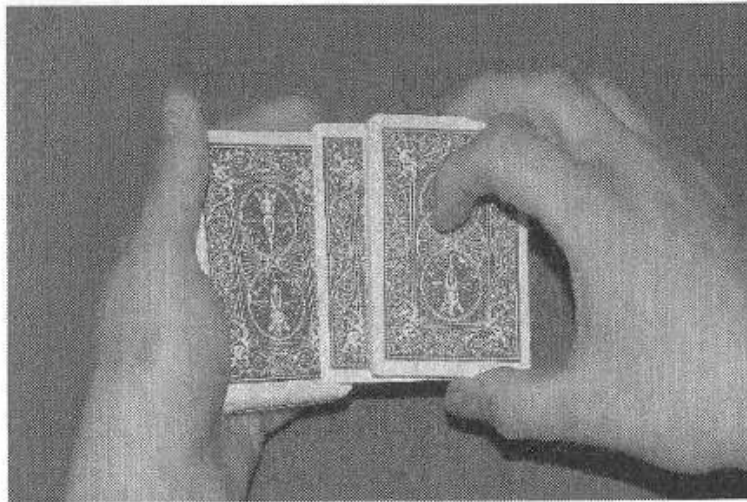
1

As she signs the card, pick up a break under the top card of the left half. After the card has been signed, square the right packet on top of the deck, and pick up to the break. You have taken a single card from the left half (thanks to the break) and added it to the face of the right half in a squaring motion. **(Photo 2.)**

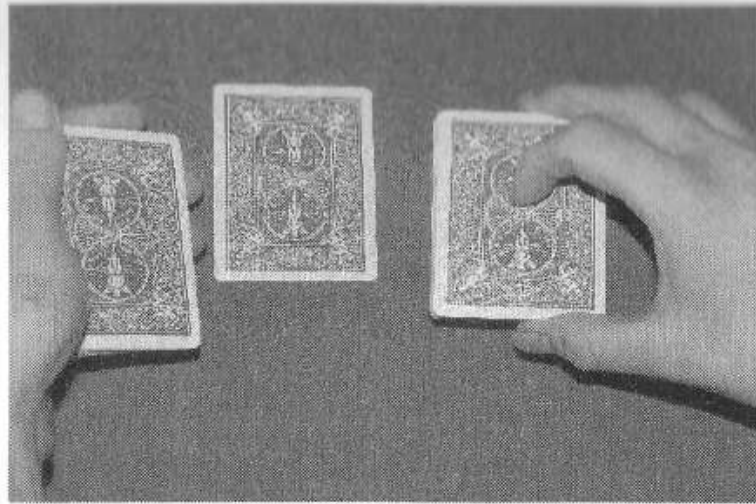


2

The right hand moves to the right with its packet and the left fingers contact the bottom card and drop it on the table. **(Photo 3 and 4.)**



3



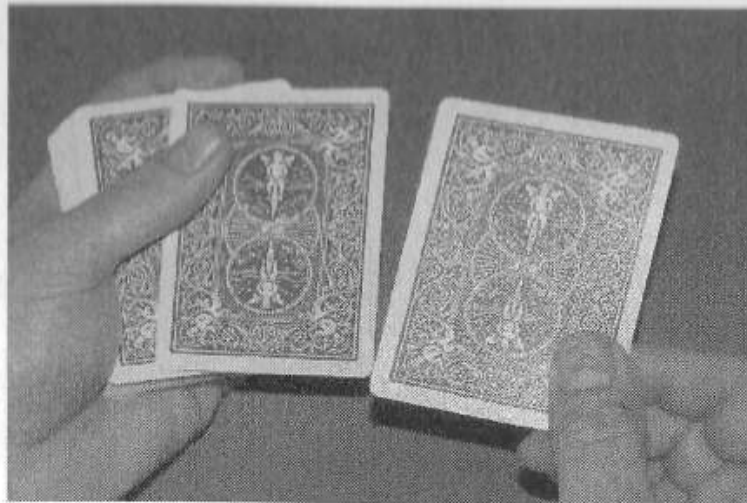
This is the Harvey Rosenthal switch, which looks exactly as if you were simply taking the bottom card of the right half and dropping it on the table. It's a very natural motion.

As you replace the right half, let the right fingers rotate the bottom card slightly to the right, just as if you were going to do a Kelly Bottom Placement. The right hand covers the right half of the deck just long enough for the left little finger to pick up a break above the chosen card.

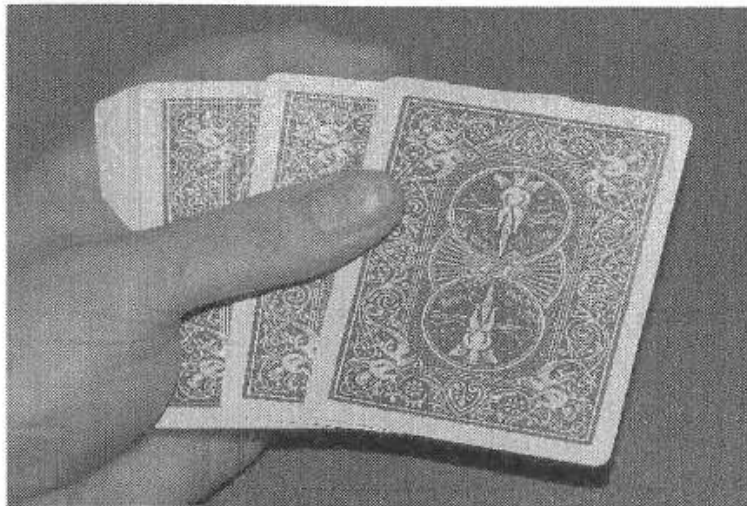
Have a second card chosen by riffling down the deck just as for the first card. But this time, do a Riffle Force, seemingly cutting where they stopped, but actually at the break, and cut the top half to the bottom. Tell the second spectator that he doesn't get to see his card this time, but he should initial it on the back so he will know that it is his. (The Riffle Force is described at the end of this effect.)

Use the top card to scoop up the tabled card and bring them both toward the deck. Pull off the top card, leaving it spread to the right on top of the deck.

Address the first spectator, "*You looked at the first card and signed it on the face.*" (Photo 5.)



Place the second card on top, spread further to the right.
(Photo 6.)



Look at the second spectator, *“And you signed the second card on the back, without looking at it.”*

Square up the deck and openly squeeze it. Hard.

Take off the top card. *“Your signature? What was the first card you chose?”* Turn it over to show the two cards have fused into one. If they want to examine the deck, they can, as everything is clean.

J.K. Hartman's Alternative Ending

This uses Karl Fulves's 5 Cent Switch, which is briefly described.

When you take off the second selection, get a break under the next card. Scoop up the tabled card, but don't square the two, the lower card to the right of the upper card.

Appear to slide them on the deck outjogged, but work the inner left corner of the lower card into the break, then square the two with the deck in an outjogged position.

Have the spectator squeeze them, then draw out the upper card as the left forefinger pushes the lower card flush with the deck, tilting the outer end of the deck downward – all appears clean. Give the card as if it were two to the spectator and end.

Ryan's Obvious Ending

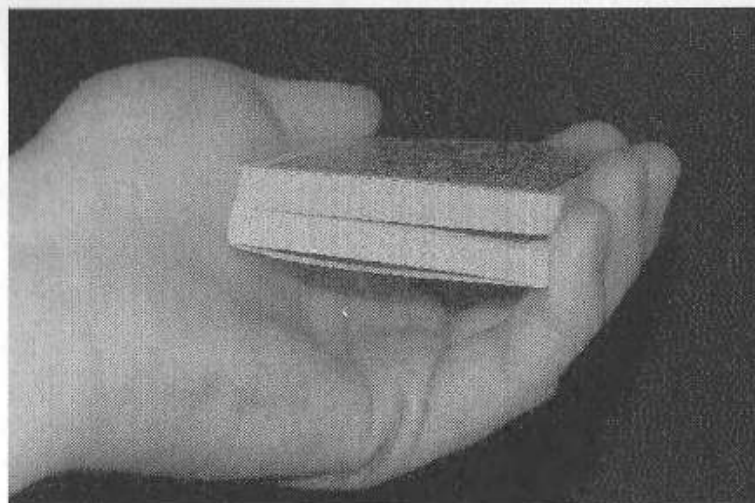
You can end the trick in a similar way to other fusion effects. After you pick up the first selection from the table by sliding the second selection under it, move to the deck with both cards and reverse count them onto the deck as described earlier.

"This card was signed on the face and this card was signed on the back."

Pick up both selected cards in End Grip and square them above the deck secretly dropping off the unsigned card onto the deck. Move away from the deck with the two signed cards (really just one now) and casually turn over your right hand to flash the signature on the face of the card you hold. It appears you are still holding both signed cards. Flex the card and allow it to drop into a spectator's hands to end.

The Riffle Force

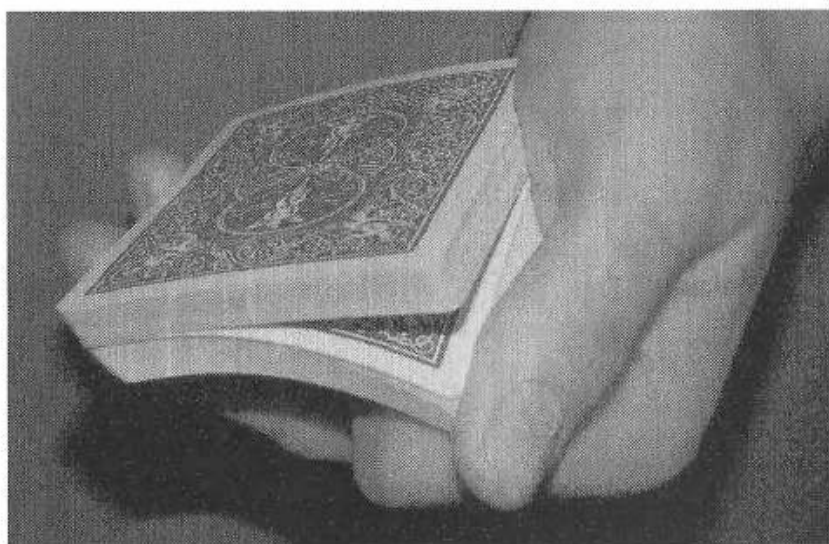
You are holding a break in the center of the deck above the card that was signed on the face. This is the card you are going to force. (**Photo 7.**)



7

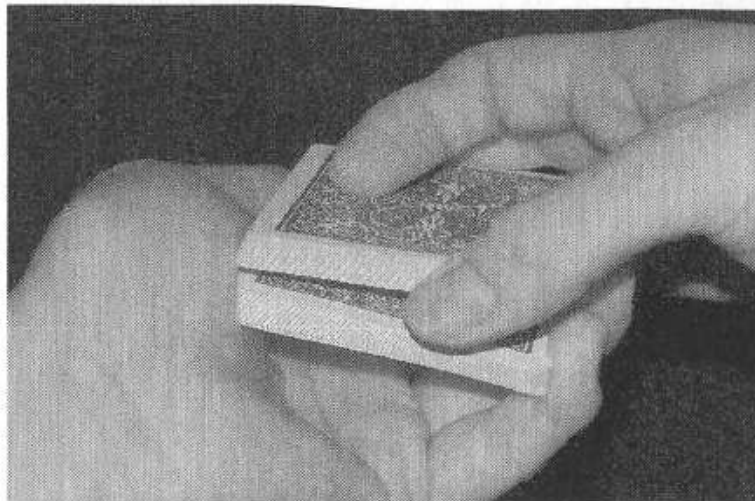
With your left thumb, riffle down the upper left corner of the deck and ask the spectator to stop you. Try to time the action so the spectator stops your thumb riffling near the break you are holding.

When you are stopped, your left thumb continues to hold a gap in the deck. (**Photo 8.**)



8

It will appear as though you take all of the cards above where the spectator stopped you in right hand End Grip. In reality, you ignore the gap held by your left thumb and instead the right hand cuts the cards at the break held by your left fourth finger. **(Photo 9.)**



The gap at the front of the deck is momentarily covered by the right fingers. At this moment, the left thumb relaxes and allows the gap to close. With your right hand, lift away all of the cards above the fourth fingertip break.

The force card is on top of the half held by the left hand.