

INFINITY: ROUND TRIP

Effect: The performer riffles up the pack until a spectator calls stop. The upper portion of the pack is raised and the card at its face is shown. The bottom portion of the deck is turned face-up and the card at its face is also noted. This is appointed as a marker card. The face-down top portion is laid onto the face-up bottom portion, placing the spectator's card face to face with the marker card. The spectator is asked to blow on the pack, after which the face-down top portion is lifted. The marker card is seen on the face of the lower portion, but the spectator's card has vanished from the face of the upper packet.

The deck is reassembled face-up, and the spectator is asked to blow on it once more. When the deck is next spread, one card is found reversed at center—the vanished selection has reappeared.

Method: This quick trick (devised during the same period as the previous item) is as satisfying to perform as it is bewildering to watch. The satisfaction emanates from the wonderful economy of method, a feature common in Elmsley constructions. One simple sleight accounts for both the vanish and the reversal of the selection.

The deck is unprepared and there is no setup, though you may wish to move a prominent card like the ace of spades to the face of the pack when you begin. If you do so, call attention to the card as you position it.

Take the pack face-down into left-hand dealing position and, with the right fingertips, riffle up the outer end of the cards until a spectator tells you to stop. Since the selection is an honest one, you can hold up the deck as you riffle, permitting the spectator to see the cards as they go by. When stopped, raise the upper portion of the pack, holding it by its ends in the right hand, and display the card at the face of the packet to everyone. Since this is not a location or divination, you can look at the card as well.

Now, with the left thumb, flip the bottom portion of the pack face-up in the left hand, and draw attention to the card on the face of this packet. If you have previously positioned an easily remembered card there, this lessens the mental work required of your audience to appreciate the effect.

"I shall mark the position of your card by placing it face to face with the ace of spades [*or whatever*]." Here execute the Kelly-Ovette bottom placement (pp. 261-262) as you lay the right-hand packet face-down onto the face-up left-hand packet. This secretly shuttles the face-down selection beneath the face-up block.

Ask the person who chose the card to blow lightly on the deck, this action being a time-honored magical agent. Then lift the face-down upper portion, relying on a light touch and the natural bridge of the cards to cut accurately between the two packets; or neatly spread the cards between the hands until you reach the division. Your card is seen still at the face of the bottom packet; but when you turn the upper packet face-up, the spectator's card has disappeared.

Pause for the vanish to register; then slip the face-up top portion under the face-up bottom one. This buries the face-down selection in the middle of the deck.

Hold out the pack for the spectator to blow on it a second time. Then spread the cards, either on the table or between the hands, to reveal the reversed card near center—the selection returned.