

MATCHING THE CARDS

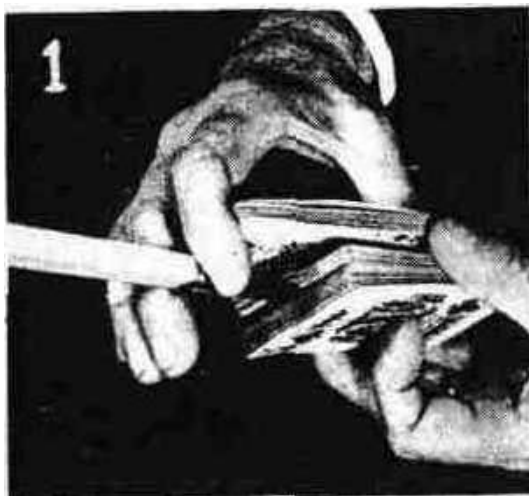
Nate Leipzig was so impressed with this trick that he asked **Dai Vernon** to teach it to him, in order that it could be included in his **club** act. Leipzig performed the trick for many years with great success.

The effect is that a card, selected by a spectator, is placed face down on the table without its face being shown, then the performer endeavours to cut to the three other cards which match. He shows each card as it is found—three Eights—and places them face down on the table. When the spectator's card is turned it is found to be a King, so obviously a mistake has been made. However, when the three other cards are turned face up once more, they prove to be all Kings.

The following set-up of the Eights and Kings is necessary:—

On top of the pack is a King with an Eight immediately below it. In the centre of the pack are two Kings with an Eight immediately below them, and on the bottom of the pack is an Eight with a King immediately above it. This order is easy to remember because the Kings are always above the Eights. The fourth Eight is not used in the main trick, but Dai Vernon has an additional climax in which it is brought into play—see Note 2.

To perform the trick, secretly secure a break between the two Kings in the centre of the pack, holding it with the tip of the left little finger. Hand a table knife to a spectator and ask him to insert the blade at any point he wishes in the outer short end of the pack. To



make this easier for him, riffle the outer end of the pack with the right fingers. Ensure that the blade of the knife is inserted into the **bottom** half of the pack. Grip the blade between the right first and second fingers as in Figure 1, and move the right hand forward, sliding all the cards above the break off the pack and onto the blade of the knife. It appears as if the pack has been cut at the exact point where the blade was inserted. Do

not turn the right hand to show the face of the card above the blade.

Ask the spectator if he would like the card above or below where the blade was inserted. Whatever the choice it must be a King, so place the card face down on the table without showing its face. It is

desirable to place an object on the card to prevent the spectator glancing at it. In squaring the pack, secure a break between the Eight and King in the centre of the pack.

State that you will now demonstrate how to find the other three cards of the same value. Spread the cards between the hands until the break is reached, ensuring that the last three or four cards of the right hand packet are fanned out a little. Push the Eight to the right with the left thumb, then with the side of the fanned cards, flip the Eight over sideways to come face up on the left hand packet. The next action is to flip the Eight face down once more and secretly add the King above it from the bottom of the right hand packet. **Henry Christ** evolved the next subtle move which covers this action. Hold the left hand packet above the right hand packet, then with the left thumb push the Eight to the right to make it project over the right side of the packet. Bring the right hand packet up from underneath so that the left sides of the fanned bottom cards come under the right side of the projecting Eight and lift it, making it turn over to the left. The left thumb has been on the left side of the Eight to aid the turning. As the right hand packet is brought over the left hand, the left thumb clips the bottom card (the King) of those fanned on the bottom of the right hand packet, adding it above the Eight. Immediately push this card off onto the table with the left thumb—an Eight has been shown, named ("Eight of Spades"—or whatever it might be) and apparently thumbled off onto the table. Actually it is a King which goes down.

Square the pack, then make a false cut (any convincing method which leaves the cards in the same order). Double lift the two top cards to show an Eight, turn the cards face down again and thumb off the top card, face down, onto the table—another King. Make another false cut, turn the pack face up to show another Eight on the bottom, then perform the Glide so that the King goes down. If preferred, a one-handed Second Deal can be used to bring about the same result.

Place the pack on the table and say—"We have shown three Eights, two red and one black (or whatever has been shown) so this card (indicate the card forced in the beginning), should be the other black Eight". Turn up this card, smile and bow, then appear to realise that a grave mistake has been made. It is of great importance to convince the spectators that the climax has been a total failure. Look crestfallen, then brighten up and say, "I know what we'll do; we'll make all the cards change". Hold the card just shown in the right hand, face on to the spectators, then take it into the left hand. Pick up another card with the right hand, turning it dramatically to show it is a King;—place it also in the left hand. Continue until all four cards are widely fanned in the left hand, permitting as much as possible of the faces to be visible.

Note 1.

As each Eight(?) was found, Nate Leipzig dropped it face down onto the floor. By holding the card face down and parallel with the floor, it does not turn as it falls, even though dropped from a height. This is effective because it seems so casual.

Note. 2.

When Dai Vernon was playing at Billy Rose's fashionable Casino de Paris, he devised a startling climax for this trick. As only three Eights are shown, he had the fourth Eight concealed in his outer breast pocket. At the stage where the forced card is revealed, he would ask a spectator to turn it face up. He would act crestfallen, pick up the pack and spread it face up between his hands as if to discover where he had gone wrong. It was a simple matter to casually place the Eight from the centre of the pack to the bottom, making two eights on the bottom and one on top of the pack. After bringing the trick to a successful conclusion, he would then proceed to perform his now well-known "Travellers" (Stars of Magic Series), using the Eights.