

EFFECT: The magician has someone freely select a card, but beforehand he cautions him “not to pick the Deuce of Clubs.” It turns out that the spectator does choose the Deuce of Clubs. This is repeated a few times, and each time the Deuce of Clubs is chosen.

Then the magician, divulging why all this is farcical, shows that all of the cards are Deuces of Clubs. To remedy the situation, he says: “Let’s make one of these duplicate Deuces a unique card.” He then asks the spectator to sign the face of one and cut it back into the deck, adding, “There are a number of ways to distinguish your card from the rest.”

Next, he ribbon-spreads the deck face down to reveal the signed Deuce of Clubs face up in the center. He slides it out of the spread and turns it face down, saying, “Not only is it face up,

but it now has a different colored back.” At this point the “farce” seems finished, but the magician adds a lethal blow by flipping the spread face up to show 52 different cards.

Racherbaumer: Some routines are ignored or glossed over because the explanation is lengthy and not accompanied by photographs or illustrations. Seeing a lot of text is translated into “too complicated.” One assumes there are too many moving parts and too many details to remember and enact. Another problem is that sometimes, having read a brief description of the effect, readers cannot imagine how the effect might really play when done for a live audience. My guess is that when this effect originally appeared in *MAGIC Magazine*, most readers bypassed it. On the other hand, if they had seen Mark Jenest perform it, they would have immediately realized how effective it is.

If you read the detailed explanation, you will realize the potency of its theatrics.

There are six surprises, each guaranteed to evoke reactions and laughter. There are also three — not just one — magic moments, each progressively stronger. The deck switch is a “sweet spot” in this routine and, if properly executed, is completely deceptive. The only other sleight is a simple one: the Braue Reverse. Bottom Line: don’t bypass this presentation this time. At least try it out. You will not be disappointed.

REQUIREMENTS: A regular deck of blue Bicycle cards. A red-backed Deuce of Clubs. A one-way blue-backed Bicycle deck consisting of Deuces of Clubs. A Sharpie. You must also wear a sport jacket with side pockets.

SETUP: Place the regular deck, with its Deuce of Clubs at the face, in your left side coat pocket. The faces should be aimed toward your body. Place the red-backed 2C on the bottom (face) of the one-way deck.

Case the cards and place them in your right side coat pocket. Place the Sharpie into your inside (right) breast pocket.

METHOD & PRESENTATION: Remove the cased one-way deck from your right pocket. Casually remove the deck from the case and toss the case aside. Invite a spectator to assist. She should be seated on your left.

Spread the cards face down between your hands. “Please choose a card — any card you like...” As soon as one is withdrawn, continue by adding “...except for the Two of Clubs!” The spectator will note that she has a Two of Clubs and will conspicuously respond, physically and verbally. Do not act too surprised. Simply say, “Oh, yeah, I’ve been having trouble with that card!”

Take back the selection and openly replace it near the bottom, then spread the cards again for another selection. "Please take another card, any one near the top. A free choice — any card at all!"

Let the spectator choose another card.

She will react again, along with the audience, when another Two of Clubs is chosen. Take back the card, replace it, and repeat the same stunt, saying "No, seriously, take any card except the Two of Clubs."

After the third time, ask the spectator to leave the Two of Clubs face down on the table. Turn to another spectator, on your right, and spread the cards for yet another selection. "Here, you try!"

After the selection is made and the card is shown, the audience will visibly react.

Stare at the second spectator and say, "Don't tell me — did you pick her card?" Have the second Two of Clubs placed face up on the table. "Well, this curious turn of events takes skill, determination, and most of all..."

Turn the deck face up and ribbon spread the cards in a wide arc to show all the duplicate Twos of Clubs as you add "...a deck with 52 Twos of Clubs!"

"See? I could have had all of you pick a card, any card!" Pause a couple of seconds. "Do you feel violated?" (If you are working for a "politically correct" crowd, then omit this line or change it to "Do you feel cheated?")

Let the farcical nature of the foregoing stunt fully register. As the giggles and groans begin to subside, scoop up the spread and hold the deck face up. Pick up the two chosen Twos of Clubs and insert them face up into the deck. "Forgive me for that curious and lame bit of business. However, perhaps we can do something with this weird little deck."

Deal the red-backed Two face up to the table, then fan the cards and ask, "How can we make this card more conspicuous?"

Close the fan and use your right hand to remove the Sharpie from your pocket. Hand the marker to the spectator on your left and ask her to sign the face of the Two of Clubs. Lean forward and drop your left hand, still holding the deck, to your left side. Turn slightly to your left and press down on the corner of the face-up Two with your right forefinger, ostensibly to steady the card for signing. In reality, you want to prevent the spectator from picking up the card and prematurely exposing its red back. More importantly, as the card is signed and all eyes are on this action, you quickly, quietly, and unobtrusively switch decks.

REMEMBER: You are holding the one-way deck face up with a Two of Clubs at the face. Casually place your left hand inside your left (side) coat pocket. It enters the pocket palm-down and onto the regular deck, except that your thumb and forefinger grip the uppermost sides of the regular deck before both decks coalesce. Now you can release the one-way deck and withdraw the regular deck in an identical palm-down grip.

When you eventually turn your left hand palm up, a Two of Clubs shows at the face so everything looks copacetic. The entire switch takes less than three seconds. (If you can devise your own way to facilitate this pocket-switch, feel free to experiment. The method, however, must be quick and

smooth.) After the card is signed, point out that the signed Two of Clubs can now be easily distinguished from the other duplicates.

Pick up the signed card and place it onto the face-up deck in your left hand. The next sequence will secretly reverse the signed Two of Clubs.

Obtain a left pinky break under the signed Two of Clubs and perform the Braue Reverse. Grasp the deck with your right hand, holding it in an open Biddle Grip.

Transfer the break to your right thumb at the back end, then undercut half the deck with your left hand and turn it face up. "As I said, you can really tell the signed card from this unsigned Two of Clubs..."

Clip the outer left corner of this face-up half with your left thumb, and lower and extend your left fingers. Slide the inner right corner of the face-up half onto the right-hand portion and gradually slide it completely square.

Retain the thumb break during this placement. Undercut all the cards below the break with your left hand and turn them face up.

Continue, "...or this one or any other one."

Place this portion face up under the righthand portion. Turn the deck face down and square up. The signed, red-backed Two of Clubs is face up in the center of the deck.

Table the deck face down to your left and ask what seems to be a rhetorical question: "How else could we make your card stand out from the others?"

Snap your fingers over the deck, tap its side against the table, and flash the Two of Clubs at the face. This is just a subliminal reinforcement. Quickly ribbon spread the deck to show a face-up Two of Clubs in the center. "Ah, yes! Your card is now the only face-up card in the deck!" Slide the signed Two of Clubs out of the spread and leave it face up on the table.

Let this effect register, then pick up the signed Two of Clubs and add, "Your card really, really, really stands out from the rest — because it is the only one with a red back!"

Turn the card face down to show its red back and toss it face down onto the table.

The effect is apparently over and the audience should be audibly reacting — which is an awkward way to say that they are on their feet, thunderously applauding.

As they react, use your left hand to casually pick up the bottom card (Two of Clubs) of the spread, at the left end. Transfer it to your right hand and hold it next to the red-backed Two of Clubs face down on the table, ostensibly to show the contrasting colors. "Look, the backs are different."

Drop the right-hand Two of Clubs face down at the right end of the spread, but slightly to the left of the top card of the deck.

"How about if I change the rest of these..."

Lift the left end of the spread with your left fingers and perform the Spread-Turnover Flourish. As all the cards are flipped face up to disclose a regular deck of 52 different cards, finish with "...to a regular deck?"

If the regular Two of Clubs is still visible at the right end of the face-up spread, simply push it flush or under the spread as you square that end of the spread.

Pick up the red-backed, signed Two of Clubs and give it to someone as a souvenir or simply place it in your pocket.

You now have a regular deck in play to continue performing.