

MAGIC MASTERCLASS

Secret Notes

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Precognition (self-working card trick)

Set up:

Beforehand, give your audience a prediction of the card you will make them choose. Start with your force card 10th from the top of the deck.

Ask someone to name a number between 10-20. For example: 14.

Count down to their chosen number. Then add their two digits together (1+4), and count that number off the pile already dealt. This will arrive at the force card. Show it matches your prediction.

Remember that the choice of numbers and the sequence of events should seem to be off the cuff, and to make the outcome random.

Queens surprise (self-working card trick)

Set up:

Start with a red queen at the top of the pack, and a black queen at the bottom. Put the two other queens somewhere in the centre of the pack.

Get the pack out, and look through to find the two queens in the centre. Put them on the table in front of you face up. (Be careful to keep the cards facing you as you look for the centre queens, so as not to expose the ones already set at the top and bottom). Deal the cards (face down) on to the table and ask someone to say stop. Put the black queen face up and drop the rest of the cards on top. Deal the cards again and ask someone to say stop. Put the red

queen face up, and drop the rest of the cards on top. If you wish, you can now cut the deck a few times – but don't shuffle any other way. Spread the cards and reveal that the queens have found their partners.

The Key Card Mystery (card trick)

Set up: None. However you will need to see the bottom card of the deck (your key card). This doesn't have to be done particularly secretly, as the audience doesn't know that it is significant and won't be looking for it.

Ask someone to choose a card. Take it back and put it on top (without saying anything about it). Then riffle down the edge of the cards and ask them to say stop. Cut the cards where they ask. (It seems like a free choice of where the card gets cut into the deck, but actually, it's irrelevant, as when the pack is cut, their chosen card will go next to your key card). Cut the cards a few times if you wish (just don't shuffle). Count the cards face up until you see your key card. The next card will be their chosen selection.

Do as I do (card trick)

Set up: You need 2 packs of cards for this. The magician has one, and the audience has one. It relies on the key card principle again. You simply need to know the bottom card of the deck the audience has before you begin.

Explain that this effect is called 'Do as I do' – which means, you want them to copy you. You both spread the cards face down, and choose one from the centre. Without looking at it, place it at the top. Take a peek at the card you have selected. Cut the cards. Swap packs. Explain that you will look for the card you saw and put it face down on the table. They must do the same. In actual fact, you look for the key card (their bottom card originally), and the one to the right will be their selection. You place this face down on the table. Then you reveal that both of you have selected the same card, and everything can be examined.

French drop (coin trick)



Above: position for French Drop

Set up: None

Start with a coin in your left hand held at the tips of the thumb and fingers. The back of the hand should be facing the audience. The right hand apparently takes the coin, but in actual fact it is a mime, and the coin falls into the left palm.

A little close of the hand will allow the coin to be maintained securely in the left hand. All focus should be on the right hand, while the left hand ditches the coin into a pocket. You could mime closing the coin from the fingers into the fist, and ask someone to hold your wrist. After the ditch, you could pretend to pass the coin from right to left, and left to right. Then make it disappear.

French drop – Advanced (coin trick)



Above: position for classic palm

Set up: A different coin is held in 'classic palm' with the right hand.

The workings of this are the same as for the basic French Drop. However when appearing to take the coin from the left fingers, you are now holding a different coin. When you finish, it will appear that the coin has not vanished, but changed into a different one. In this version, you could ditch the first coin after the reveal, because there is stronger misdirection. The audience will want to look at the coin, and all attention will be on it. That is a good timing to get rid of the first coin into your trouser pocket.

Remember to practice enough times before you start to show anyone, so you are confident about everything working. Practice makes perfect, but practice also makes permanent (!) Make sure it's good enough first, because once people think they've worked it out, they will no longer be interested. And of course – a magician never reveals their secrets. They will beg you for the secret, but don't tell them. You have paid for the class and they haven't (!)



Above: position of French Drop with Classic Palm

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