

acaan.co - ideas

ideas

so. you've paid £3 for this... i promise to make it worthwhile.

the ruse

you may prefer to face the cut head-on and make a thing of it - after-all, you're making a single cut to a deck which places their chosen card at their chosen position - that's impressive enough. you could explain you've memorised the deck, and that it's the sort technique a *card sharp* might use to beat a casino.

if instead you prefer to brush over the cut to support the premise that you've not handled the cards, there are various ways of achieving this...

instead of using *sleight of hand*, you'll need to use *sleight of handLING* - two totally different skills, which some would argue are equal in complexity. it's the sort of thing the best magicians (Derren Brown) do all the time - significant aspects of a trick are made to appear insignificant.

the aim is to at least try to have the cut *misremembered*. the main way of achieving this is to lengthen the performance, padding it with witty jokes - laughter and time elapsed causes people to forget. that, and by drawing attention to the least important aspects of a trick, attention is drawn away from the key action(s) that had facilitated the outcome. it's no *big deal* if you one is not made of it!

as narratives go, emotive storytelling is by far the most effective. perhaps wrap a carefully-worded note around the deck with an elastic band, saying you once visited a holiday cottage and one evening were rifling through the draws to find some playing cards, but found this instead. intrigued, you opened-up the letter, followed the instructions, and to your utter disbelief, it worked.

alternatively, you could ribbon spread the cards face-up to show how well mixed the cards are. in handing the cards over to your participant, you could place them down in two chunks, one atop

the other, face-down - it's the same cut-and-complete, only much more deceptive.

how about going all-out and trying an 'any card at any number from any deck'. each stack has its own unique id - it's possible to bookmark multiple different stacks by simply bookmarking each newly-generated stack. do this 52 times, creating 52 unique stacks, and you're set for a true miracle fit to fool Penn & Teller.

stage

with an audience to impress too (some of which may well be magicians, and that may bother you) you'll want to ensure this is well stage managed.

your secret helper could be stood in the wings using the app on an iPad. prevent your participant from seeing this by having them sat/stood opposite you, table between, and your secret helper in the wing directly behind your participant - all you need to do is glance over their shoulder for a moment and note the card displayed on the screen.

tv

you could just cut the cut - loads of other tv magic is this brash.

whether you wish to cut the cut or not, many other benefits are offered-up by performing on tv.

you could use a monitor feed from your secret helper who simply holds their phone to camera.

alternatively, the target card could be written into the auto cue.

street

in a coffee shop, use the same concept from *stage* of having your secret helper sat behind your participant close enough to listen-in and flash their phone's screen at the right time.

nobody will notice.

the same applies in a crowd of people - your secret helper could apparently be filming you.

closeup

closeup is the most challenging scenario for this sort of trick to be performed - if you're table hopping at a wedding for example, the last thing you'd want is someone following you around staring at their phone.

however, interestingly, this is where *your* phone may come into play - you could leave a call to your secret helper open on loud speaker (muted their end) the whole time. the target card can then be texted to you each time. you'll need a suitable ruse to check your phone (or perhaps you have an Apple Watch) but that should be ok.

the note

following on from *the ruse*, below is a carefully-worded note that you're free to use as you wish. write it out instead of printing it out. and no, one of those fancy hand-writing fonts won't do!

Dear guest of North Booth,

I hope you're enjoying this lovely cottage every little bit as much as we did. There are many hidden gems to be found nearby - beautiful coves and lovely views.

I invite you try a little something with the cards you've found. Simply follow the instructions below. If it works, you'll be AMAZED. I promise.

Think of ANY card.

Now think of ANY number between 1 and 52.

Now, before you do anything else, have someone other than yourself (ideally an adult) give the cards a single cut-and-complete.

When that's done, take back the cards, and while holding them face-down, deal each card face-up, counting as you go, until the card at your number is dealt.

The odds of YOUR card appearing at YOUR number are beyond astronomical.

Give it a go - you never know, it might just be your lucky day.