

Are you ready to learn a really neat stunt?

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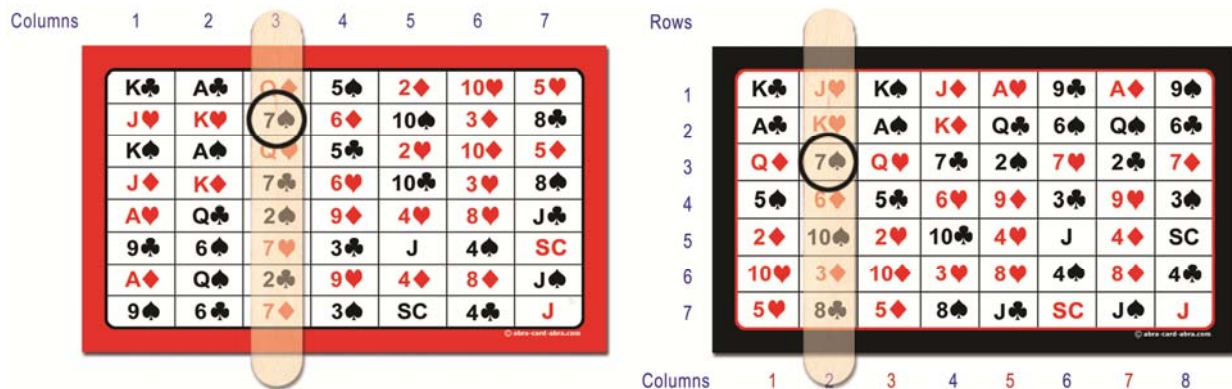
The World's Greatest "Cardless" Card Trick

Effect - Ask a friend to think of any playing card as you take out two business cards and two small craft sticks. Set the cards side by side. The red card should be to the left of the black card as your friend is facing the cards. The backs of each card are different, yet each depicts an entire deck of playing cards, including red and black jokers (J) and bridge score cards (SC). As you turn your back, ask your friend to find the column on each card that contains his chosen card, and then, cover those columns with a craft stick. As you turn around, you are able to instantly name his chosen card. This may be repeated several times without detection of the secret.

Secret - The covered columns on each card will give you all the information you need to determine which card your friend has chosen. **Here is what you need to remember about each card:**

The Red Card - The **column** that is covered on the red card will indicate which **row** the chosen card will appear in on the black card. That is, the same cards that appear in a column on the red card will also be in the respective row of the black card. Example: If your friend's chosen card is in the **third column** on the red card, you will know that his selected card will also be located in the **third row** on the black card.

The Black Card - A deck of playing cards always contains *pairs* -- two cards that are the same color and number but different suits. For example, the 3♠ and 3♣ are both black threes. The 7♥ and 7♦ are both red sevens. The black card shown below has paired playing cards in paired columns. **Remember this:** Columns 1 and 3, 2 and 4, 5 and 7, and 6 and 8 are paired columns. Glance down columns 1 and 3 and you will see the K♣ & K♠ in the top row, A♣ & A♠ in the second row, Q♦ & Q♥ in the third row, etc. The other columns are paired the same way. Columns 5 & 7, for example, start with the A♥ & A♦. You know that any card that someone picks will have its paired card one column away in the same row. If they chose the 4♥, for example, you know that the 4♦ will be two spaces away in the same row. If your friend has covered column 4, you know that the matching paired card will be in column 2, and vice versa.



Using the information above, the best way to understand this trick is to follow the example and then try it out. In the example, your friend has selected the 7♠ and has covered the respective columns on each card. As you turn around, look at the **red** card first. Since **column 3** is covered, you will know that the selected card will also appear in **row 3** of the **black** card.

Look at the black card next. Since Column **2** is covered, you will know that the paired card will be in column **4**, which you can see. Since you have already determined the row, simply look to the correct spot

on the black card. In the illustration, the **7 ♣** appears in **row 3** of the **paired column**. It will not be the chosen card, but it will be the paired match to the chosen card. All that is left for you to do is to reverse the suit and announce the name of the selected card. The only exceptions are jokers and score cards. The paired match of the black score card is the black joker, and the paired match of the red joker is the red score card, and vice versa.

Here is a little performance tip that will help you to build a bit of suspense and buy you an extra second of thinking time. Once you have determined the correct row and paired column on the black card, reveal the card in three steps. In the example above, once you spot the **7 ♣**, say, *"It's a black card"*... (this gives you a second to mentally reverse the suit), *"it's a spade"*... (then name the value), *"it's the seven of spades."*

Here are the steps in a nutshell.

1. What **column** is covered on the **red** card? That will indicate the **row** to look to on the **black** card.
2. Locate the correct row on the black card, and then, determine the paired column to the column that is covered.
3. Note the card located in the same row of the paired column.
4. Reverse the suit (clubs to spades, hearts to diamonds, and vice versa), and name the card.

The little bit of time it will take to learn this trick will be time well spent. Practice this trick a few minutes a day, for a few days, and you will have it for life. Keep it handy, and you will have a truly amazing miracle to share with your friends.

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