



# *Inside Ed's Head*

March 2013

## **Do You Like Bottoms? I Do!** (We are talking about card moves, right?)

Some of the moves that I believe are among the most deceptive involve the bottom of the deck. These include the Bottom Deal, Bottom Palm, the Gambler's Cop, Jinx Change, Hop Off the Bottom, and the Bo-Top Change. In last month's column, I offered a trick that used the Gambler's Cop, without any elaboration. I hope that move is well known enough so that none was needed. This month I'll be dealing with the Immediate Bottom Deal, the Jinx Change, and the Bo-Top Change, moves that are definitely under-utilized in the magic fraternity.

### **The Genii Directs**

**Effect:** The spectator chooses a "lucky card," and the magician loses it into the deck. The spectator is given the deck and asked to deal cards face down in a pile on the table until he feels the spirit of the genii tell him to stop. The last card dealt is turned face up on the table. It is the lucky card!

**Method 1:** Spread the deck **face up** and have the spectator name or touch a "lucky card." Close the spread, getting a break below the selection as you do so. Then double cut the cards below the break to the top of the face-up deck, and turn the deck face down. (The lucky card is now on top.) Give the deck one or two false shuffles and/or cuts, and hand the deck to the spectator.

Tell him that his actions are about to be guided by an invisible genii. Ask him to deal cards face down to the table. After he dealt five or six, tell him to stop any time he feels the spirit of the genii will it.

After he stops, his card will be at the bottom of the pile. Square the tabled pile, pick it up, and do Marlo's Immediate Bottom Deal.

Here's How:

Pick up the pile with your right hand, thumb at rear, fingers at the front; your index finger is at the upper left corner of the packet. (Photo 1.) As the hand begins to rise off the table, your right middle and ring finger will go under the packet touching the face of the bottom card. (Note: You can't do this move with dry fingers. If you want to learn this move, and I strongly suggest you should, you'll need moist fingers. There are several skin lotions that can help those of us with dry skin. I'm partial to Chamberlain's Golden Touch. Ask around, you'll get many suggestions.)

As you start moving the packet to your left hand, your right fingers will angle the bottom card to the right, exactly as if you were starting a Kelly Bottom Placement. (Photos 2 and 3.)



**Photo 1**

**Photo 2**

**Photo 3, Bottom View**

As you move the deck to your left hand, tilt the deck down somewhat to obscure the angle jogged card. Place the deck in the thumb crotch of the left hand, the left thumb resting diagonally on the cards. (Photo 4.) The cards are now at a normal dealing angle; the spectator should be seeing more of an “end view,” rather than a “top view.”

Start moving your right thumb towards the upper right corner. As this happens your right hand starts turning clockwise at the wrist, your middle finger is maintaining contact with the underside of the bottom card. (Photo 5.)

As the right thumb reaches the upper right corner, the right middle finger is fully touching the bottom card, and the right hand has rotated to dealing position. The index finger is masking the front of the packet.

The middle finger pulls the bottom card to the left, and the right thumb moves to its outer right corner. The card is dealt to the table. (Photos 6 and 7.)



**Photo 4**

**Photo 5**

**Photo 6**



**Photo 7 (Spectator's Angle)**

You can now recap (your version of) what has transpired. Ask the spectator to turn the card over. He'll see the card he named earlier. With a little bit of luck, he'll forget you ever had an opportunity to do anything with it.

**Method 2:** Instead of dealing the cards to the table, you may have the spectator deal the cards onto your outstretched left hand. (Remember, his card starts off on top of the deck, so it will be on the bottom of the cards you're holding.) Do your best to have no more than ten to fifteen cards dealt. This move gets harder the more cards you are holding; it would be a good idea to find your upper limit.

Deal the top card into your right hand, look up at your spectator, and ask, "When the genii signaled you to stop, did he tap you on the shoulder, or issue a mental command?"

As soon as he begins to answer, you'll perform a Bo-Top change, switching the card you're holding for the bottom card of the left-hand packet.

Here's How.

Slide the right hand's card on top of the packet. As the card starts to go flush with the packet, the right index finger's fingertip will first touch the right side of the packet, and then move **under** it. Once the fingertip is under the packet the right thumb initiates a block push-off of all but the bottom card. (Imagine you are doing a Elmsley Count with the whole packet.) These cards are taken into your left hand, and your right hand is left holding the spectator's card, in the exact same grip the top card was only a moment ago.



Now all you have to do is flip the card over, and show the miraculous transformation.

### **The Genii Corrects**

**Effect:** Similar to Version 1, except that the magician flips the card the spectator stopped at face up on top of the packet and it is the **wrong card!** He implores the genii for help, touches the card to the card box, and the card changes to the spectator's lucky card.

**Method:** Of course, you can use the Bo-Top change in this situation if you wish, but the extra handling of showing the "wrong" card on top of the packet sets you up nicely for the Jinx Change. You might elect to use this change if there are too many cards in the packet for you to use the Bo-Top change comfortably.

Here's how:

As you flip the top card of the packet over, get a left little finger break above the **bottom** card as you do so. When the wrong card is revealed, make some sort of comment or joke about this unfortunate turn of events. As the spectator's attention turns to you, flip the "wrong" card face down, and immediately lift **all** of the card above the break in Biddle Grip, and table them,

retaining just the bottom card in dealing position. Move your right hand back to the card to grasp it at the right rear corner, thumb on top fingers below, at the same time continue to hold the card in your left hand.

Flex the card a few times at the diagonal corners, tap it on the card box, and reveal the miracle.

That's it for this month. Next month, we'll have something from Jerry Mentzer.

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