



Inside Ed's Head

January 2014

Mates (Not Just for Lovers and Chess Players)

I got the idea for this month's effect after reading Simon Aronson's trick, *Mis-Mates*, in his book [Bound to Please](#). Simon kindly granted permission for me to print my version, which literally turns one of the actors in his plot upside down.

I can't imagine anyone reading this column is unfamiliar with Mr. Aronson, but I feel a brief recap is in order. His writings on the memorized deck have influenced a generation of card workers. (I am one of those so influenced.) I believe his trick "Shuffle-Bored," combined with a memorized deck, is the greatest mental magic trick there is. (Well, perhaps Paul Curry's "Out of This World" is also a contender for that title.) He delights in creating impossible locations, and effects that go beyond what you'll find in the average magic book. Simon's website is www.simonaronson.com. If you enter the "Magicians Only" of the site, you'll find a free trick.

I have all of his books: [Sessions](#) (with David Solomon); [The Aronson Approach](#); [Simply Simon](#); [Bound to Please](#); and [Try the Impossible](#). I believe [Sessions](#) is out of print, but the rest are available. You'd do well to stock up.

Hockley's Mate

Effect: The magician, taking a shuffled deck from the spectator, explains the concept of a card's "mate." He places a card (it could be a selection) face up in the deck, out-jogged for about three-quarters of its length, so the spectator can easily see it as the trick proceeds. With the card still protruding "as an influence," the magician takes the deck and transfers cards from his right hand into the left, asking the spectator to say "stop" whenever she feels the urge. After being stopped, the magician takes the out-jogged card and drops the stopped-at card face-down in front of the spectator. When the tabled card is turned over, it is **not** the mate to the out-jogged card. However, the magician makes things right by changing the formerly out-jogged card to the mate of the card the spectator stopped at!

Method: Upon taking the shuffled deck back from the spectator, start patterning about mates as you spread the deck face up in front of you, so that only you can see the faces. Begin the spreading action by pushing all but the top card to the right, allowing you to glimpse the top card. (Photo 1.)



Photo 1

Continue the spread until you come to the mate of the top card. Separate your hands so that the card to the **right** of the mate is on top of the left hand's section. (Photo 2)



Photo 2

Move the right-hand spread in front of the left, and take the indifferent card and the mate onto the face of the deck. The spread of cards will mask the fact that you've moved two cards to the face. (Photo 3, next page.)



Photo 3

Place the right hand's cards back on the left's, square up, and lower the cards so the spectators can see the indifferent card on the face. Point out that the mate to the face card would be (in this case) the Eight of Clubs. Make sure she understands this, then turn the deck face down, and remove the Eight of Spades from the bottom and insert it face up into the deck at an angle, somewhere near the middle. (Photo 4.) As you're doing so, buckle the bottom card with your index or middle finger to enable you to get a break over it with your right thumb.



Photo 4

Now take the deck in an overhand grip, your fingers at the upper right side to accommodate the out-jogged card, thumb at the rear holding the break. Use your left thumb to begin peeling cards off the deck into your left hand. Ask the spectator to call stop when she feels the urge. (Photo 5, next page. Right hand's card in process of being taken into left hand.)



Photo 5

After she stops you, offer her the choice of the top card on the left-hand packet or the top card of the right-hand packet. If she wants the top card of the right hand packet, use your left thumb to peel that card on top of those in the left hand. Now you'll use Marlo's Hockley¹ move to load the bottom card of the right-hand section on top of the left-hand cards as you remove the out-jogged card from the deck.

Move the left hand under the right so that the left thumb can grasp the out-jogged card against the side of the left index finger. Simultaneously, the left fingers can grasp the bottom card of the right section and take it on top of the left-hand section, under cover of the right-hand cards and the out-jogged card. (Photos 6 and 7). This action should look like all you've done is take the out-jogged card onto those in the left hand. Table the cards in the right hand.



Photo 6



Photo 7

Take the face-up card into your right hand, thumb at the back, fingers at the face, and then thumb off the top face-down card onto the table. Tap the face down card with the lower side of the Eight as you say, "You could have stopped at any time you pleased, and this is the card you chose." (Photo 8, spectator's view.) "Why don't you turn the card over, and see how well you've done." This action helps cement the image of the Eight of Spades into the spectator's mind.



Photo 8

¹ Who's Hockley, Heirophant 3 and 4, Page 205. Edited by Jon Racherbaumer. © 1976 by Louis Tannen,

As the spectator reaches to turn over the card, sit back in your chair and relax; you're going to perform a Bo-Top change, or a Jinx change, to switch the card you're holding for the bottom card of the packet.

Most likely, you'll have fewer than a dozen or so cards in your left hand, so a Bo-Top change will work nicely. I discussed the Bo-Top change in depth in the March 2013 column (P. 3), but here's a brief description. Turn the right hand card face down, parallel to the floor and slide it on top of the left-hand cards, under the left thumb. As the card comes square with the packet, the right fingers will automatically end up under the packet of cards, where they'll hold the bottom card motionless. Your right thumb can now push all the cards above the bottom card into your left hand, in the manner of Elmsley count.

If there are too many cards in the packet for a Bo-Top change, you can use the Jinx change. (Also discussed in the March 2013 issue.) Get a break under the bottom card of the packet with your left pinky, place the right hand's card squarely on the packet and then lift all the cards above the break and place them on top of the tabled packet.

Now all you have to do is make a magical gesture, or cast a spell, or ignite a flash pot at the other end of the room, and you can show that the cards are mates after all.

What if . . . the mate to the top card is already on the bottom when you get the shuffled deck back from the spectator at the beginning of the trick? No problem. Spread the deck for a selection and use that card as the one in need of a mate.

What if you'd prefer to have the spectator select the card to be mated? After showing the bottom card during your explanation of "mates," turn the deck face down, remove the bottom card, show it, and bury it in the deck. Then spread the deck for a selection.

What happens if they then select the top card? Out-jog it and proceed with the Hockley force. They'll find the mate on the first try. You'll lose the transformation, but still have an impossible "Spectator Finds the Mate" effect.

What happens if they select the bottom card? Have them insert the card face down partially into the deck. Now you can use the Bill Simon's "Business Card Prophecy" force to reveal the mates. Spread all the cards above the out-jogged card into your right hand, leaving the out-jogged card on the left-hand cards. Turn your right hand palm down and grasp the out-jogged card between your right thumb and the cards in your hand, at its outer end. Now revolve your right hand palm up again, placing all its cards **under** those in your left hand. It should appear that you've just turned the out-jogged card face up, and left it in the middle of the pack. (Photos 9-12)



Photo 9



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12

That's it for now. Next month: Peter Duffie contributes half a book!

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