



Written by Ed Hass

Inside Ed's Head

Edited by Sal Mannuzza

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Magic From an Underground Worker (He can do more than make your tax problems disappear.)

In the Inner Sanctum of magic, there are some names that evoke a certain awe and respect—sometimes even fear. Some people are rumored to have said, “Was he the guy that Siegfried tried to feed to the tigers?” Or others might have asked, “Are his hands lethal weapons of card magic?” It’s been told that his brain is so powerful that your watch might stop working if you come too close to him.

I don’t know if any of these rumors are true, but I know the name that gets bandied about. Bob Lusthaus.

Perhaps you’ve heard of the Lusthaus Card System—that’s the one he’s published. You’ve probably never heard of the other useful stacks and systems his agile mind has created. You won’t unless you meet him face to face. But I’ve heard that he lives on top of a mountain reachable by only the most exceptional climbers in the world. This might be a lie invented to keep the unworthy away. I do know that once a month some of the most brilliant minds in close-up magic gather in his lair to discuss the finer points of close-up entertainment. Those who are allowed to leave always say the experience is enlightening.

I do know that upon the unauthorized release of some of his material in the October 2012 issue of *The Linking Ring*, a devastating storm hit the east coast, causing over fifty billion dollars worth of damage. Coincidence? You be the judge.

What follows is a trick of Bob’s that was found in a long hidden archive by a spelunker in Tasmania. He spirited it out of the country by stealing a truck and stowing away on a submarine. I hope you think his effort was worth it.

RSC (Riffle Shuffle Control) TO WALLET

As soon as I read the description of the Riffle Shuffle Control in the July 2000 issue of the [Linking Ring](#), I thought of the following effect:

Effect

The Magician asks Spectator #1 to cut about 1/3 of the deck, count and remember the number of cards (assume fifteen), and replace them on the deck. Magician now has 2 cards selected by 2 different people (Spectator

#2 and Spectator #3). The deck is assembled and the Magician directs Spectator #2 to cut about half the deck and asks Spectator #1 to tell us the number he is remembering. He then asks Spectator #2 to count down to that number (fifteen) and turn it face up. It is spectator #2's card.

The magician then asks Spectator #3 to pick up the other half of the deck and count to the card. When he turns it over, it is not his card. Tell him to look at the card before, it will not be his card. Tell him to look at the card after; still no. Ask for the name of his card. When he tells you, say "that can't be, that is the card that is in my wallet." Show your hands empty, remove your wallet and withdraw Spectator #3's selected card.

Method

Spectator #1 is told to cut off about 1/3 of the deck and count and remember the number of cards in his cut off packet. Turn your back while he is counting, so that you do not know how many cards he counts. When he is finished, turn around, pick up the 2/3 portion of the deck that is on the table, take the packet from Spectator #1, and replace it on top of the rest of the deck, obtaining a pinky break below his packet.

Talk for a moment (time delay), cut to the pinky break and riffle shuffle the two packets into each other, but don't push them flush; about half their length will do. Now have two cards selected via Karl Fulves's Riffle shuffle Control, as follows.

Hold the interlaced packet in your palm up left hand, in dealing position, with the ***fifteen card packet injogged***.

Riffle down the left side of the elongated deck with your left thumb. Ask a spectator to say stop at any time. [Ed's note: Be sure you stop at a point between the injogged cards.] The left thumb opens a gap at the place stopped. The palm down right hand reaches over to the left hand and inserts its four fingers into the gap held by the left thumb and grasps all the cards in the ***top part*** of the elongated deck.

[Ed's note: I find it much easier to riffle up the top of the outjogged cards. I believe this makes inserting the right-hand fingers into the break faster and easier.]

The right hand lifts up this packet that is above the break and the right wrist twists to the right, holding the packet vertically and showing the face of this packet to the spectators. You have actually reversed the orientation of the cards in your right hand, as the injogged cards are now outjogged and the cards that were originally outjogged are now injogged.

Have Spectator A note the upjogged face card and have Spectator B note the downjogged face card.

Replace the cards in the right hand face down on top of the cards in the left hand BUT hold a break between the two elongated packets with your left pinky. With your palm-down right hand strip out ALL of the outjogged cards and drop them on top of the cards remaining in the left hand. Now cut the deck at the pinky break and complete the cut. [Ed's note: since there will probably be a relatively small amount of cards below the break, the following cut might look a *little bit* more convincing. Grasp the cards from above with your right hand—thumb at the inner right corner and middle finger at the outer right. Use your right index finger to swing cut somewhat more than half the cards above the break to the left.

Use your left thumb to hold this top half against the cards below the break as your right hand pulls the center section free and tables it. Cut all the cards above the break and place them on top of those already tabled. Finally, place the remaining cards on top of all. Take all of the cards back into your left hand after the cut.]

The amazing thing about this maneuver is that the card that Spectator A looked at is the fifteenth card from the top of the deck and the card that Spectator B looked at is on the bottom of the deck.

Now ask Spectator #2 to cut off a packet consisting of approximately half the deck. In the act of placing the deck back on the table, Gambler's Cop the bottom card in your left hand, which drops against the left thigh. Spectator #1 is then asked to tell us the number he is thinking of (fifteen in this case). Spectator #2 is directed to count down to the fifteenth card and turn it face up. It will be Spectator #2's card. **While Spectator #2 is counting to fifteen, put your left hand in your pocket and put spectator #3's card in your wallet.**

Continue with Spectator #3 as written in the last paragraph of the Effect above.

Note on the Riffle Shuffle control

This is a Karl Fulves creation that gets one or two chosen cards to a known position in the deck. The RSC is described, with diagrams, in the July 2000 issue of the Linking Ring on pages 103 and 104. It is also explained in Epilogue #16 (November 1972) and a book called Riffle Shuffle Control (by Karl Fulves).

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