



Inside Ed's Head

Written by Ed Hass

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Jerry Hartman, Jerry Hartman*

(When Writer's Block Hits, JKH to the Rescue)

Featuring: A Case for Change.

I usually have several ideas floating around in my head. Today, I have two floating around that I think are worthy of a column. I think one might be good enough to sell, so it won't be printed here until I find out if I *can* sell it. The other seems worthy of print but I haven't tested it in front of an audience, so I won't print that either. That leaves me with . . . nothing.

Several years ago, I began performing Jerry Hartman's "A Case for Change," from his book *Card Dupery*, p. 96. I asked Jerry if he'd let me print it here and he kindly agreed.

I'm sure that most of my readers will know of Jerry's works. You can get his latest books at Vanishing Inc. <http://vanishinginc.com>. Just to name a few of my favorite from these books, you'll find "Holey Grail" and "Garden of Eaten" in *Card Dodgery*. The former is an impossible prediction where the spectator is given a deck and asked to name a number between one and fifty-two. He deals down to that number and removes the card. An envelope, which has been on the table the whole time is opened to reveal another envelope. The spectator opens this envelope and removes a card within. It matches the first card. The latter is "Garden of Eaten," a great Cannibal Cards routine with the best title in all of magic.

From *Card Dupery*, you'll find "Keynoted" an impossible location of two cards in which the spectator removes and replaces the cards while the magician's back is turned. Some of Jerry's other books are available from other dealers and eBay. I'm delighted to say I was able to complete my collection recently with a timely search.

A Case for a Change

Effect

The magician has four kings on the table, face up. He has the spectator pick a card and place it on the table face down, sight unseen. The magician drops the kings, still face up, on top of the face-down card. He picks up the five-card packet to show the bottom card, the selection, to the spectator. He places that card on top of the spectator's outstretched palm. He then puts the kings into the card case and places it on top of the face-down card that's being held by the spectator.

After a magical pause, the spectator drops the card box on the table. He looks in his hand—he's holding the four kings. He then picks up the card box and opens it. His card is in the box.

Method

This is an easy trick . . . *if* you can do a Half-Pass. I've never felt comfortable doing that move. If you find the July 2015 edition of this column, you'll see that I taught Ken Krenzel's Mechanical Reverse. This is easy to perform and, as long as you watch your angles, it's completely deceptive. It does need different "choreography" than the standard Half-Pass, so I'll teach the trick as if you can do a Half-Pass and talk about the change needed to use the Krenzel move in the Afterword.

Start with the card case lying on the table to your left. The flap is open, pointed away from you. The notched side of the case is facing up. You already have the kings, or another four-of-a-kind, on the table. A selection is made and placed face down sight unseen. Drop the kings on top of it. Pick up the five-card packet with the right fingers and show it to the spectator saying, "This is your card." (Photo 1.)





Lower the packet into left hand dealing position, look down at the cards, and spread the four kings, saying, “These are my cards.” Look up into the spectator’s eyes, and say, “Could you please do me a favor? Please hold your left hand, palm-up, like this.” (Photo 2.)

As you look up, close the spread, getting a break *below* the third king. Then, do the Half Pass so that it is completed just as you extend your left hand, palm up to illustrate your request. Asking a question, as you look up from the kings will get the spectator to look up as well. The big action of extending your left hand adds additional cover to the Half Pass. The packet will now consist of three face-up kings, the face-up selection, and a face-down king.

Once the spectator extends his hand, regrip the packet in an overhand position by the *long sides*, with the forefinger extended and “wipe” the bottom card of the packet onto his hand. The extended forefinger helps ensure that only the bottom card is deposited and the cards don’t spread. (Photo 3.) Continuing this action, place the cards back into dealing position in your left hand. The left thumb should be on the left side of the packet. (Photo 4.)



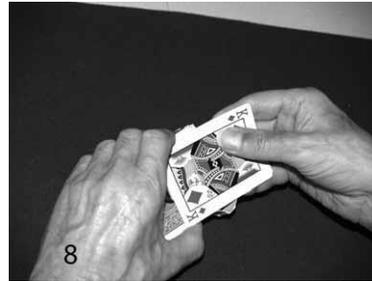
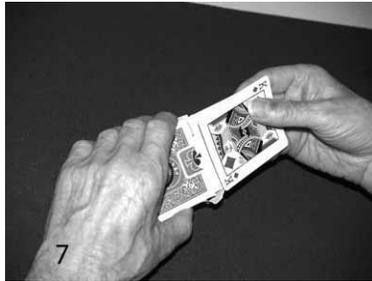
Look into the card box. You’re now going to re-take the cards in your right hand and simultaneously downjog the rear card of the packet about ¼ inch to ½ inch. Here’s how.

Your right hand comes over the outer end of the packet so that the first phalanges of its fingers touch the back of the cards. (Photo 5.) As your left hand rotates about a quarter turn so its palm is pointing rightward, your index and middle fingers push *gently* on the rear card so it moves to the left or downward, depending on the position of your hands. Be careful that your left thumb and fingers



are not gripping the packet too tightly. All four of your right fingers should be at the top/right end of the packet, obscuring the jogged state of the top card. (Photo 6.) This all happens in the time it takes you to locate the card box, put the cards into your right hand (an in-transit action), and reach for the box with your left.

Pick up the box between your fingers on the left side and your thumb on the right. Use the packet of cards to kick the flap out of the way. Insert the end of the rear card into the case but use the jogged condition of the cards to allow you to maneuver the kings to the outside of the box. (Photo 7.) Push the packet down into the box, the fingers and thumb of your left hand hold the three kings squarely on the face of the card box as a guide as they are pushed down. (Photo 8.)



Close the case and grasp it in your right hand, thumb on top, fingers on the bottom. Remove it from the left hand and place it squarely on top of the card on the spectator's hand. After some magical incantation, flash of fire or bolt of lightning, ask the spectator to take the box and drop it on the table. Then ask him to look at his card. He'll be surprised to see he's holding the four kings. Now ask him to pick up the card box and look inside. He'll find his card.

Afterword

For those of you who do Ken Krenzels' Mechanical Reverse, here's the change in handling that's necessary to perform it in this trick. After you've lifted the packet to show the spectator his card (illustrated in Photo 1 on page 2), flip the packet over, spread it, and say, "These are my cards." (Photo 9.) Now, as you are lowering the packet, insert your left little finger into the packet under the second card from the top, and perform the Mechanical Reverse as you look the spectator in the eye and ask him to



extend his hand. Doing the reverse with only five cards in your hand should be pretty simple.

For more on the Half-Pass, check out next month's article.

*Those of you who wondered why I repeated Jerry Hartman's name in the title either missed a funny TV show in the '70s or are such young whippersnappers you missed the '70s!

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