

52X Deck

Effect:

Any card is named by the spectator. The named card is the only one marked with an 'X'.

Secret:

This deck uses the Rough/Smooth principle. There are 26 (27 with Jokers) pairs of cards that are stuck together with roughing spray. When you spread through the deck face-up, you will see only **Red Odd cards and Black Even cards**. With a very light pressure, slowly spread a roughed pair. The cards will separate. You will see that the card underneath has an 'X' drawn on its face. The top card of the pair has an 'X' on the back of the card on the mini-card image that matches its face. **For example, the Queen of Spades card will have a small 'X' on the back of it on the mini-image of the Queen of Spades.**

Secret Pairing:

The cards are paired together in a special way. Each pair of cards has the same rank, and Hearts are paired with Spades, and Diamonds are paired with Clubs. **For example, if you see the 6 of Spades, then you know that the 6 of Hearts is paired below it. If you see the 3 of Diamonds, then you know that the 3 of Clubs is paired below it.**

Because of the 52 card back design, you can do this prediction trick with just this one deck of cards, yet every card can be shown to have an 'X' on it.

Performance:

Take out the deck of cards (in the box) and set it on the table, with the window side of the case down so that the spectators don't yet see the back design showing through the window.

"I've made a prediction with this deck of cards. I've marked one card in a special way... Do you know how many cards are in a deck of 52 playing cards?..."

"Please name one of them."

When the spectator names a card, pick up the card box and hold it so that only you can see the card window.

"That's amazing! Your card is right here at the top of the deck... Do you believe me?"

After the spectator answers, turn the card case so that everyone can see the back of a card showing through the window.

"See there it is, right between the ___ and ___ cards." [Just name the cards that the selected card is next to on the back design so that everyone is very clear about what you're showing them.]

The real purpose of this little joke is to introduce the back design to the audience because the design of the cards plays a crucial role in the performance of this trick 50% of the time.

Now what you emphasize in this trick will be determined by what card they name. If the spectator names a **Red Odd or Black Even card**, then the selected card will have a small 'X' on the mini-card image on the back of the named card. If the spectator names a **Red Even or Black Odd card**, then that card will have a large 'X' on the face. How you proceed depends on their selection. (But they don't know that.)

Red Odd or Black Even card

If a **Red Odd or Black Even card** is named then clearly show the audience that the cards have the same back design.

"Look, every card has the same type of back design. There are 52 little cards on the back of every card- and all the backs are the same. There is nothing different on any of the back designs. But you named the ___ card. That card is special because that is the one that I *knew* that you were going to name. Do you believe me? I can prove it..."

Spread through the face-up deck and find the card they named, and cut it to the face of the deck. Then start to separate it from the card below it, but be careful. You don't want to show the 'X' drawn on the face of the card below the named card. Have the cards facing you as you start to separate them. And then, when you remove the named card, turn the rest of the deck down as you show the back of the named card. "The backs of all the other 51 cards are all the same, but this is the one that I marked by putting a small 'X' on the image of the card you named. I just had a feeling that you would choose it!"

If the spectators want to see the backs of some of the other cards, just spread through the face-down deck to show them. Everything will look OK. Replace the card to the face of the deck and put the cards in the box. You're ready to perform again (to a different audience, obviously!)

Red Even or Black Odd

If a **Red Even or Black Odd card** is named, then clearly show that the faces of all the cards are different, but unmarked.

"Look, just as you'd expect, the cards all have different faces. And there is nothing unusual about any of them..." As you say this, just spread through the cards to show different faces.

While you're spreading, you need to be looking for the matching card. If, for example, the spectator named the **8 of Diamonds**, then you need to be looking for the **8 of Clubs**. When you see it, cut it to the top of the deck.

"But I knew that you were going to name that card (name their card), that is why I marked it with a big 'X' on the face."

Separate the pair of cards at the face of the deck, and show the face of the named card has a big 'X' drawn on it.

You could, once again, show the faces of some of the other cards to prove that none of them were marked. Everything will look OK. Replace the card to the deck and put the cards in the box. You're ready to perform again (to a different audience, obviously!)

Jokers

Both Jokers are paired together. But there is no mini-image of a Joker on the back of the cards. So only the face of the hidden Joker is marked. So, technically, this trick should be called "53X" because any one of 53 different cards could be named. Or, since the Jokers don't fit into the 52-on-1 joke, you may choose to remove them. But, more than likely, you'll have some "joker" who will name a Joker just to see if he can mess up the trick.

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