

Quick Sandwich

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The Effect: The spectator freely chooses a card from a shuffled deck. The selection is noted and placed back in the deck. The deck is then cut a few times. Magician places two Jokers, one on the top, and one at the bottom of the deck. The deck is then thrown to the other hand and as if by magic, the selected card is sandwiched in between the Jokers!

What you'll need: Any decent deck of cards. We'll recommend that you use a deck that's not too worn out, so that the cards can still slide smoothly against each other. Make sure the deck has two Jokers, if not, you may replace the Jokers with something like two Kings or two Queens.

Note: All instructions will be explained for right-handers. Please reverse the handling if you are left-handed.

The method: Put the two Jokers on the table and get the spectator to shuffle the cards for fairness. Then, spread out the cards and let him select one card. Ask the spectator to take note of the card and say that you're going to lose the cards in the deck and find it with the help of the two Jokers.

Hold the deck in "Mechanics' Grip." This grip is magicians' lingo for holding a deck of cards in your non-dealing hand (held in the left hand, if you're right-handed) with your index finger curled in front of the deck, thumb gripping the left, and your other three fingers on the right. This grip is held in a relaxed state, but firm enough so that the cards can be held squared (Fig. 1a). Take the card back from the spectator. Keep it face down or towards him so that you will not be accused of peeking at the card. Cut the deck at the middle and place the selected card face down on the top of the lower half. Keep the selection out-jogged to the right slightly with your left thumb. You may wish to tilt the deck towards the spectator so that he can see his selection again one last time (see Fig. 1).



Fig.1a



Fig. 1

Next, square the top of the deck on top of the selection (see Fig. 2). To the spectator, it'll seem like you're merely replacing the top half. However, you're actually cheating. The reason why you had the selection out-jogged initially is so that your left pinky finger can catch a break below the selected card as you're squaring the deck. Fig. 3 shows you how a pinky break looks like. Do NOT stick your entire pinky into the break. A break is held using only the fleshy part of your pinky finger. The front end of the card should be held down flush in front of the deck so that the break will not be visible in front from the eyes of the spectator.



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

Ok, now that you know how to catch a break, let's continue. After you square the top half, the right side exposed view should look somewhat like Fig. 4. Now, Fig. 4 is actually an exaggerated view for your clarity. In actual performance, the top half should be squared on top of the selected card, followed by the break (practice so that you can get the break as small as you can), followed by the lower half of the deck (Fig. 5).



Fig. 4



Fig. 5

If done correctly, the spectator should think that you have just put the selected card into the middle of the deck. Now it is time to learn how to control the selection. In this magic trick, you'll need to control the selection to the bottom of the deck. Remember the break you held? Transfer the break from the left pinky finger to your right thumb. The grip that your right hand is now holding the deck is called the "Biddle Grip." Holding the thumb break using Biddle Grip allows your left hand to let go of the deck. So, cut away approximately half of the deck BELOW the break using your left hand (see Fig. 6). Bring that half up and place it on top (Fig. 7 and Fig. 8).



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

Cut the entire top portion of the deck ABOVE the break (Fig. 9) and place that portion onto the table (see Fig. 10). Complete the cut by placing the rest of the cards on top of the tabled cards (see Fig. 11). With this entire sequence of cutting done correctly, you would have the selected card now at the bottom of the deck. This is called the "Double Cut Control." Alternatively, instead of cutting the top half onto the table as with Fig. 9, you may wish to repeat the same cutting actions as with Fig. 6-8, cutting the remainder of the half below the break to the top of the deck once more. This would accomplish the same result as with the Double Cut Control, controlling the selected card to the bottom of the deck. This is called the "Double Undercut Control," as you are cutting cards from the bottom to the top twice. Practice these cuts till you can execute them smoothly. The spectator should think that you are merely giving the deck a couple of fair cuts to mix up the cards. Due to the fact that you used two cuts, the illusion is extremely deceptive. The selection should still appear as if it is somewhere in the middle of the deck.



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11

The dirty work is now done, with the selection at the bottom of the deck, unbeknownst to the audience. Pick up the two Jokers, display them, and place them face up on top of the deck (Fig. 12). Hold the deck once more in Biddle Grip (Fig. 13). Thumb off with your left thumb one Joker into your left hand (Fig. 14) and place it at the bottom of the deck (Fig. 15). However, instead of placing the bottom Joker square at the bottom, leave it out-jogged slightly so that the tips your left index, middle, ring and pinky fingertips can contact the selected card (in this case, the selection is the 6 of Diamonds, see Fig. 16). Also, Fig. 16 is slightly exaggerated for clarity. Practice so that in actual performance, you can keep the out-jogging of the bottom Joker small, yet maintain a comfortable grip on the selected card.



Fig. 12



Fig. 13



Fig. 14



Fig. 15



Fig. 16

Apply slight pressure and press your left thumb and left fingers together. Toss the deck in a right-handed tossing motion **WITHOUT RELEASING PRESSURE** (Fig. 17) and the selected card will be caught in between the two Jokers in your left hand. Catch the remainder of the deck in your right hand (Fig. 18). Now, this move isn't as difficult as it looks. Practice this a few times and you should be able to successfully retain all three cards a la "sandwich" fashion.



Fig. 17



Fig. 18

Have fun with this effect! Remember to practice in front of a mirror till you are completely familiar with all the moves and are able to execute them properly without hesitation. Follow the magicians' code: Remember not to reveal the secrets of ANY effects to non-magicians! Share this effect with your magic buddies if you wish. Do email us at contact@AlphaMagic.com if you have any questions, feedback or suggestions pertaining to this trick.

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