

Bob's First Trick

"I first learned this trick from my uncle when I was 6 years old. It will take you – oh – about 30 seconds to learn it." Bob Elliott

Effect: Spectator selects a card from spread and it's replaced back into the deck. Magician shows several cards to the spectator, each time asking "Is this your card?" Spectator never sees their card during displays. Yet, they unexpectedly discover it in the end.

Technique: [Note: Bob's version is a pretty stripped down one. As the trick is pretty basic, I prefer to embellish the presentation in order to make it humorous and more fun for the spectators (and myself).]

Shuffle a normal (un-gaffed) deck and offer spread to spectator, requesting that they remove any card and look at/memorize it. Card is then replaced into the deck and controlled until it is the 3rd card from the bottom. *[I perform a swing cut and they place their card atop of the bottom half of the deck, sitting in my hand. I maintain a pinky break when I throw the top half on top of the bottom and then promptly drop my hand to my side to take the "heat" off of it as I begin my spiel.]*

I ask the spectator(s) if they believe in voodoo? No matter what their answer is, I note "What's there not to like? We get drunk on rum, take off all of our clothes and then chant some voodoo incantations!" While discussing these alleged benefits of voodoo, I casually perform a pass, followed by a slip shuffle (bringing the selected card 2nd to the bottom), and then peel off just the top card to the bottom in a nonchalant fashion, making the selected card 3rd from the bottom. I then explain that I'm going to perform a voodoo trick.

Holding the deck in my left hand in standard glide position, I show them the bottom card and ask them if this is their card. They'll answer, of course, in the negative, to which I'll respond with a "Damn (or dang)!" as I place that card face down onto the table (lowering the deck as I do so to obscure their view).

I'll flash them the next card and again ask "Is this your card?" After they respond "No," lower the deck, perform glide maneuver and remove their selected (original 3rd) card from the bottom and place it face down on top of the first card. I repeat this over and over again (speaking quickly to make it look as if I'm about to go through the entire deck to find their card), responding with a "Damn!" after each negative response. I tell them that I sometimes call this my "Damn" trick.

After the 5th card is tabled on top of the others, I reassure them that I'm, in fact, not going to go through the entire deck to find their card. Instead, we're going to use an ancient voodoo technique. I remove a small rubber chicken that I keep on my key chain and show it to the spectators. I explain that "we're going to get naked, I'll cut off it's head and drizzle it's blood all over the cards and then we'll chant voodoo incantations in 3 part (or however many spectators you have) harmony". I then ask the mark if he or she

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happens to know any voodoo incantations. After they respond in the negative, I admit that I'm fresh out of them as well so I'll have to try a different method.

I note that I did flash through those 5 cards rather fast. "Let's look at them once again – slowly - just to be sure that we didn't miss anything." The 5 cards are picked up in glide position and the bottom card is flashed. "Is this your card?" I ask. Of course they say "No" and I lower my hand, perform a glide to remove their chosen card (which was 2nd from bottom) and place it face down on the table. I repeat this two more times, maintaining the glide position so that I don't flash the same initial card to them again, and place each card on either side of their hidden selection. After two more "Damns" I throw the remaining two cards that I'm holding facedown on to the table stating that "It's probably not one of these either."

A sudden realization appears to hit me – "Oops - I forgot to mix them up!" I then rearrange the cards on the table so that the center card still winds up in the center. *[In my medical practice, I use a round stool for the table and merely spin the seat around as a joke while noting "There! Now they're mixed!"]*. I next announce that I'm going to give them a wedgie – "Er, I mean a Quigi (pronounce wee-gie) board!" "Please hold your hands over the cards and touch one." Use standard Equivoque/Magician's choice technique to have them wind up selecting their original chosen card and enjoy watching their astonished faces! Remind them to tip that you'll be there all night, to tip their waitress and try the veal....