

# THE INVISIBLE DECK

## THE INVISIBLE DECK Instructions written by DARYL The Magician's Magician

**WARNING!!!** Do not handle the cards until you have read the instructions and understand the secret.

**What it does:** Any card that is freely named is shown to be the only face down card in a face up deck!

**How it works:** If you spread the deck between your hands, you will find there are 26 back to back pairs of cards that are secretly held together (using a substance known to magicians as roughing fluid). With regular to firm pressure, the cards will secretly stick together in pairs, but by spreading a pair with a very light touch (thumb on top, fingers beneath), the cards will separate revealing a face down card underneath the face up card (**FIG. 1**). It helps if your fingertips are a bit moist and tacky. Practice until you can easily spread the cards keeping the pairs together and then be able to separate any chosen pair with the light touch. This will take a bit of work, but you need to be able to do this smoothly.



Notice that the values of each back to back pair adds up to 13. Aces are 1, jacks are 11, queens are 12, and kings are 13. In other words, paired up with a 4 would be a 9 because  $4+9=13$ , paired up with a queen (12) would be an ace (1) because  $12+1=13$ . Since kings are already 13, the kings are backed to back with each other. Also notice that the hearts and spades are back to back with each other and the same is true with the diamonds and clubs. You must remember this. If you just remember that a spade looks like a heart turned upside down and that's why they are together, the remaining two suits (clubs and diamonds) will take care of themselves.

Think of the red kings as "odd" (both words "red" and "odd" have three letters) and the black kings as "even".

Next, look at the deck and notice that on one side, the top card of each pair is an "odd" card (ace, 3, 5, 7, 9, jack, or a red king). Obviously, if you turn the deck over and look at the opposite side, the top card of each pair will be an "even" card (2, 4, 6, 8, 10, queen, or a black king). Remember, since the kings are back to back with each other, you must think of the red kings as "odd" and the black kings as "even".

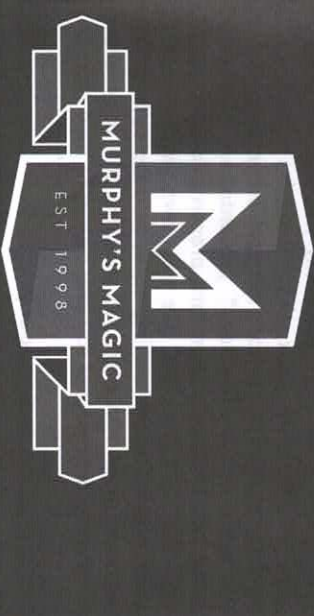
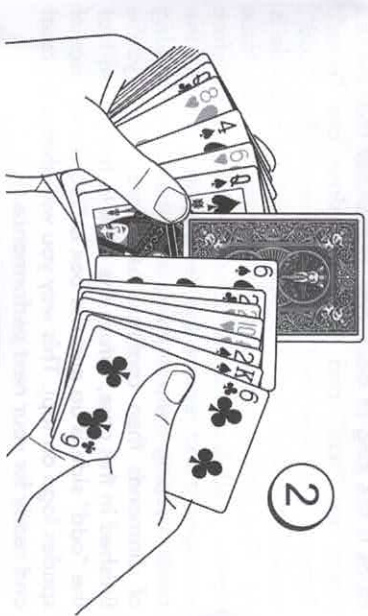
To perform this mystery, you need to be able to determine the name of the card that is back to back with whatever card is named. The card that is paired with the selection is known as the key card. Let's say the 5 of spades is named. To find the key card, subtract the chosen card's value from 13 ( $13-5=8$ ). Then, because you know that hearts and spades are back to back, you know the key card for the 5 of spades must be the 8 of hearts. Let's try another one: the two of diamonds.  $13-2=11$ , 11 is the jack, and because diamonds and the clubs are paired, the key card for the 2 of diamonds would be the jack of clubs. The only exception to this rule is the kings, but those are even easier because each king is paired with another king. Remember that the king of hearts is back to back with the king of spades and the king of diamonds is back to back with the king of clubs.

If you're a bit confused at this point don't worry, most people are, but don't give up. This will get easier with practice and it will be well worth your effort. It's time to put what you've learned all together to perform this wonderful mystery. Hold the deck with the "even" side face up and place them into the card box (the half circle cut out on the box should be upwards), close the flap and you're ready to perform. When the deck is removed from the box (flap side up), the even side will automatically be face up. To help you remember this,

when the card box is face down, the ace of spades logo is on top and this tells you that this is side of the deck where the ace of spades (and the rest of the odd cards) is facing.

**Performance:** Begin by telling your audience that you have reversed one card in the deck and you want someone to name any one of the 52 cards. Let's say they name the 7 of hearts. First, you need to determine the key card for the selection. The key card for the 7 of hearts is the 6 of spades ( $13-7=6$ , hearts/spades). Because the key card (6 of spades) is "even", remove the deck from the box so that the even side is up. Remember, their chosen card is to appear face down. Spread through the deck (firmly keeping the cards in pairs) until you see your key card. When you arrive at the 6 of spades, very lightly thumb off this key card which separates the pair to reveal the face down card underneath. To keep this face down card in full view, I like to move it outward or forward for about half its length (out-jogged) in the spread (**FIG. 2**).

Continue to spread through the rest of the deck, keeping the cards in pairs, which apparently shows that all of the cards are face up except for the one face down card.





At this point, you might wonder if your audience will notice that there are only 26 cards showing instead of 52 or that they are all "odd" cards showing. Don't worry, they won't because they're too busy looking for face down cards.

Still fanned out, hold the deck with your right hand and with your left hand, remove the face down card and dramatically reveal it to be the freely named selection! After the audience's reaction, casually replace the selection face down beneath its key card, square up the deck, then replace them into the box ("even" side up with the half circle cut out in the box on top). Be careful not to expose the bottom of the deck as you replace the pack into the box. The deck is now reset and you are ready for your next performance. If anyone asks you why you put the card back into the deck reversed, simply smile and say "It's a habit I learned when I was a child... always put things back the way you found them" or you could say "I have a funny feeling that the next person I perform this for is going to name the exact same card!"

Imagine you want the king of clubs to appear as the only face down card. The kings are easy because there is no subtraction. The key card for the king of clubs is the king of diamonds. Remember that the red kings are "odd" and the black kings are "even". Because your key card (king of diamonds) is "odd", remove the deck from the box so that the odd side is up. This simply means that you turn the box "face down" (half circle cut out pointing downwards) before you open it and remove the deck. Spread through the cards, keeping them in pairs, until you locate the king of diamonds then continue as before. When you're finished in this case, return the deck to the box so that the "odd" side is up and the box is "facedown" (face of spades logo on top). This way you will always be reset and ready for your next performance.

If all you did was to have someone name a card and then show that it is apparently the only face down card in a face up deck, that would be a very good mystery, but it's a lot more fun and entertaining when you add the "Invisible Deck" presentation. I'll give you what has become a standard presentation but please use only what you like, use your own words which fit your particular performing style, and be sure to add some of your own ideas. I'll describe the actions and then include what you say (the patter) in bold type.

Begin with the deck in your pocket.

**deck of cards?"** Spectator will say "No". **"Of course not, they're invisible! I happen to have a deck right here."** Reach into your pocket and pretend to remove and hand a spectator an invisible deck of cards. The spectator will play along and mime taking the pack. **"Please shuffle the cards thoroughly."** The spectator will pretend to shuffle them. **"You need to take them out of the box first!"** This always gets a good laugh as the spectator realizes he was set up. The spectator will play along and pretend to remove the cards from the invisible box. **"When you're finished, please hand the deck back to me."** Pretend to take the deck back then mime the action of spreading the imaginary deck between your hands. **"Pick a card, any card. Take it out of the deck, remember what it is, then show it to everyone else."** The spectator does this. **"Before you put your card back into the deck, I'm going to turn the rest of the pack face up."** Mime the action of turning the invisible deck face up. **"Please replace your card anywhere into the deck so that it is the only face down card in the face up deck."** Spectator does this. **"Please shuffle the deck so that even you don't know the exact location of your card."** Pretend to give the deck back to the spectator to be shuffled again. **"When you're finished, please put the deck back into the box and hand the box to me."** Pretend to take the imaginary deck and place them into your pocket. **"Wasn't that interesting?"** This last comment will probably get some strange looks from your audience.

**"The most amazing part of this mystery is that when I snap my fingers, the invisible deck will become visible!"** Snap your fingers. **"Yep, I just felt it and here it is!"** Reach into your pocket and remove the deck. **"Most people don't believe that this is the same deck that we were using just a moment ago, but there's a way to prove that it is. What was the name of the card you selected?"** Spectator names any card. Remove the deck from the box so that the key card for the selection will be facing upwards. **"Do you remember that you replaced your card so that it was the only face down card in the face up deck?"** Begin spreading through the deck looking for your key card. **"If this is the same deck that we were using a moment ago in its invisible state, there should be one face down card somewhere in the pack."** Locate your key card and smoothly separate the pair at this point revealing the face down card. **"There's a face down card..."** Continue to spread through the deck to show that it is apparently the only face down card in the pack. **"...and it's the only one in the entire deck. What was the name of the card you**

say it was the two of diamonds. Turn the face down card face up to dramatically reveal its identity. **"Absolutely, positively... ladies and gentleman, the two of diamonds!"**

**Presentation #2:** Tell your audience that last night you woke up in the middle of the night and while still half asleep, you removed a random card and returned it to the deck so that it was the only one facing in the opposite direction. You're eyes were still closed at the time so even you don't know which card it was. Have a spectator name a card and continue as usual.

**Presentation #3:** How about this. Have someone from the audience use a cell phone to call a random friend and have the friend name any card in the deck. Show that this freely named card is the only one reversed in the deck! Perhaps you could combine presentations number 2 and 3 together. Use your imagination and have fun!

## History & Credits:

"Slick Cards" have been used by professional card cheaters for hundreds of years, but the "Rough and Smooth" principle as we know it today was created in the 1920s. Joe Berg invented the "Ultra-Mental" Deck in 1936 (the original name for this "Invisible Deck"). The invisible deck presentation was created by Eddie Fields and popularized by Don Alan.

## Final words:

Please practice your magic tricks until you can perform them flawlessly without having to think about you're doing. When you achieve this goal, your performances will look like real magic and you'll have to power to bring pleasure and mystery to everyone around you! Also, we know that it's very tempting to share the secrets with your friends, but if you do, the secrets will spread and your power will be lost. Please honor the magician's code...

**A good magician never reveals the secrets!**

ILLUSTRATED  
BY SANDRA KORT  
WRAP & INSTRUCTION DESIGN  
BY BEN HARRIS

  
Sandra Kort  
packaging design  
DESIGN by Ben Harris