



# SECRET INSTRUCTION MANUAL

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## **Introduction**

This is a great close-up trick in any situation, but it is a particularly good trick to perform for those skeptics who think they know how all floating tricks are done. With this trick, there are no threads, no magnets, no strings, no chemicals, no “wind”, and no explanations!

It takes guts to pull it off, but I can assure you if you take the time and effort to practice, you’ll have a close-up gem in your arsenal and you’ll carry it wherever you go.

Since there are many different types of performers and performing situations, I’ve decided to include a few different versions and variations of this trick. All of them allow you to float a playing card at a moment’s notice and all of them guarantee great reactions from your audiences. Read them all first, and then choose the one you like best. Or master them all and be ready for anything!

Special thanks to Steve Minor for his ideas regarding the “Signed, No-Switch” version.

## **Making The Gimmick**

Here are step-by-step instructions to make your own “Free-Floating Card” gimmick.

Here is what you’ll need to create your gimmick: 2 matching cards, one indifferent card (all with matching back designs), a pair of scissors, and a glue stick. This is what these items look like if by some chance you’ve never seen them before:

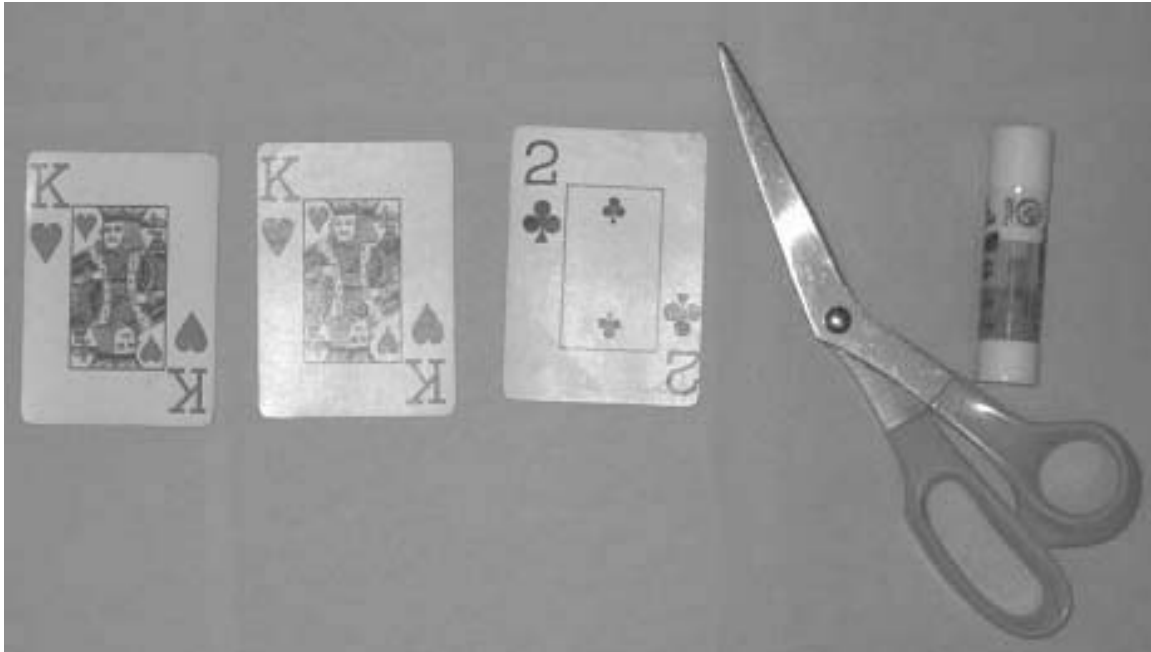


Figure 1

First, set aside one of the matching cards. That's just the stunt-double. You won't need it until the performance.

Pick up the indifferent card and the scissors. Check to see that the scissors are very sharp and rusty and look around to make sure you have no adults supervising you. **JUST KIDDING!** You probably should go get mom or dad. Besides, they'd love to do some arts and crafts with you. Tell them I said so. Then tell them you want all my tricks for Christmas.

When everyone is ready, grab the scissors and start cutting. Here's how:

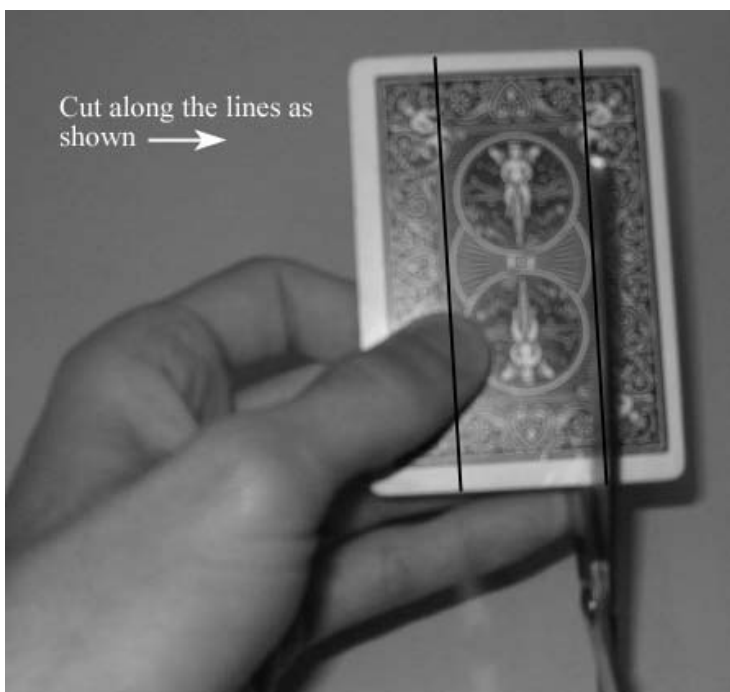


Figure 2

The key is to cut along the card so that your cuts blend in with the pattern on the back. Bicycle decks are perfect for this because there is camouflage for your cuts. Do you see the rectangular box-shape that the two angels are in? You want your cuts to correspond with the long sides of the rectangle. You'll see why this is important later.

Discard the two sides of the card that you just cut off and set your sights on the middle part. We'll call this the "strip" or the "gimmick" from here on in. You now have two more precision cuts to make before the surgery is complete. With great care, cut off the white border on either side of the strip. In Figure 3, one border is already cut off and I'm working on the second one.

Your strip is now ready to be affixed to one of your duplicate cards. Either one is fine, the choice is yours. I don't know about you, but I always have a hard time picking from a set of twins.

When you finally decide, get some glue on the FACE of the strip. You want to put a thin line of glue as close to the middle of the strip as possible. Use the edge of the glue stick to get a line of glue that is thin, but not so thin that there isn't enough glue on the card to stick to anything. Figure 4 gives an example of how much glue is good.



Figure 3

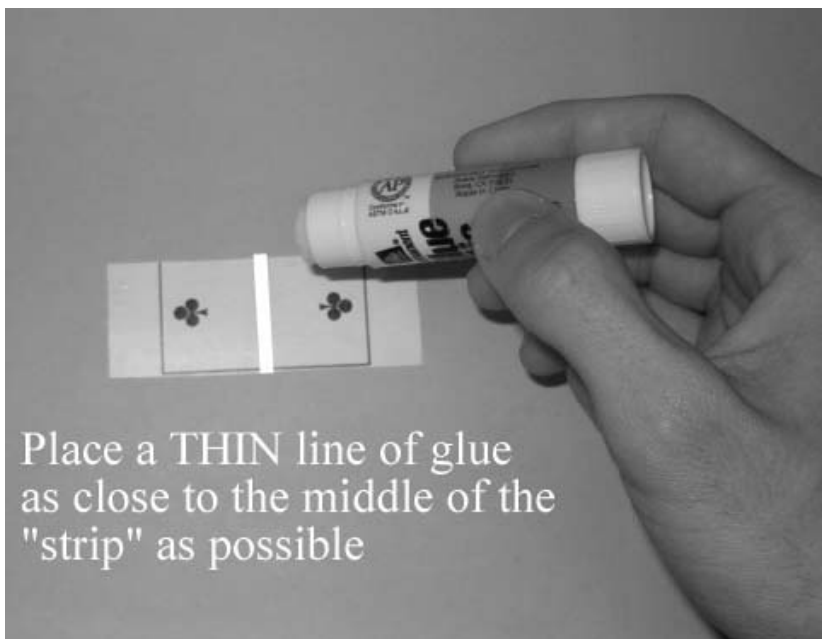


Figure 4

The thinner the strip, the higher the card will float. It doesn't make a HUGE difference, but it does make a difference.



Figure 5

Now stick the strip to the BACK of your duplicate card. Do your best to line up the design so that the gimmick is invisible. This is why it was important to take care to cut along the lines earlier.

Be patient and give the glue time to dry. When you're done, it should look like Figure 5. (While it's drying, put a heavy book on top of it to help set it in place...but be careful not to disturb the careful placement of the strip!)

Almost looks like a regular card, right? Well that's the idea, sonny. Even from extremely up-close, this card looks completely ordinary, but it's ready at a moment's notice to spring into action (and quite literally I might add).

## The Methods

There are several ways of creating the illusion of a floating card using this gimmick. I'm going to show you two ideas that I like and I'll also tell you why I like 'em.

### IDEA NUMBER ONE:

The original idea I had was to pretend the card was laying flat on my hand, but in reality I would hold the gimmick between my pinky finger and thumb. By gently squeezing the gimmick, it would bend and cause the card to lift off my hand.

Frankly, that looked like caca.

Either my hands are too big, or the card is too small to make that look natural. It looked like my hand was doing something sneaky (and it was). If you have smaller hands than me, then that idea may work for you.

The next development was to use my forefinger and pinky to gently squeeze the gimmick (Figures 6 and 7). That was a little better, but upon testing the trick on my wife, she immediately thought I was somehow balancing the card on my fingertips. While that's not exactly true, it's still enough to ruin the trick. Also it was pretty obvious that when my fingers squeezed together, the card started floating. Not good.



Figure 6 (What's going on under there?)

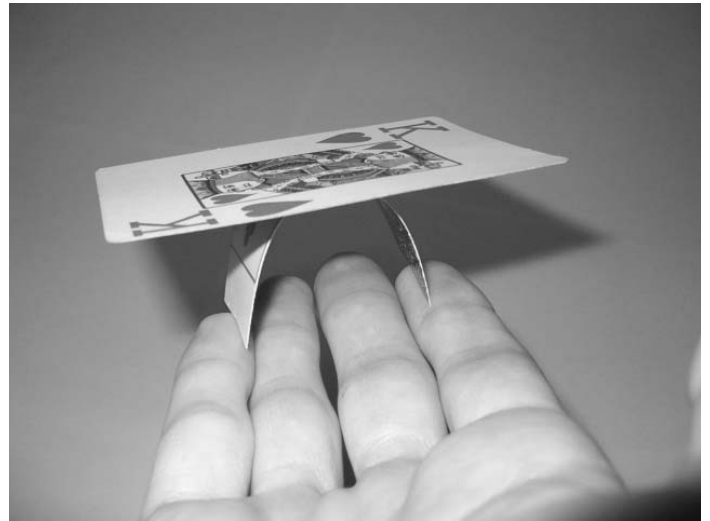


Figure 7 (Ah, THAT'S what's going on under there!)

Bottom Line...I Had Two Problems: I needed ALL five of my fingers (including my fingertips) to be visible at all times. Also, I needed a method that wouldn't require so much obvious finger movement.

Suddenly, my cat had a brilliant idea. She suggested that I move the card closer to my palm. (As shown in Figures 8 and 9.) Now my fingertips are completely visible, which is good, but it also takes care of the obvious finger movement problem too. Here's why...

In order to get the gimmick into this position, you would need to spread your fingers wide apart. By the time you are ready to perform the float, your fingers will naturally relax. As your fingers relax, the card will float.

By its nature, this gimmick **REQUIRES** finger motion. There's no way around that. Fortunately in this case the motion isn't obvious. Even if they do notice the finger movement, at least you have a reason to be doing it so they probably won't call you on it. In fact, I've never had someone think it was out of the ordinary.



Figure 8



Figure 9 (The Exposed View)

## IDEA NUMBER TWO:

This idea offers a *different* way to get your fingers out of the way AND reduce the perception of finger motion. You may like this one better if you have short fingers that don't extend beyond the edge of the card when you try idea #1.

This time, the gimmick is held between the thumb and middle finger in sort of a spellbound-like position. When the thumb and middle finger are brought closer together, the card "lifts off". (See Figure 10)

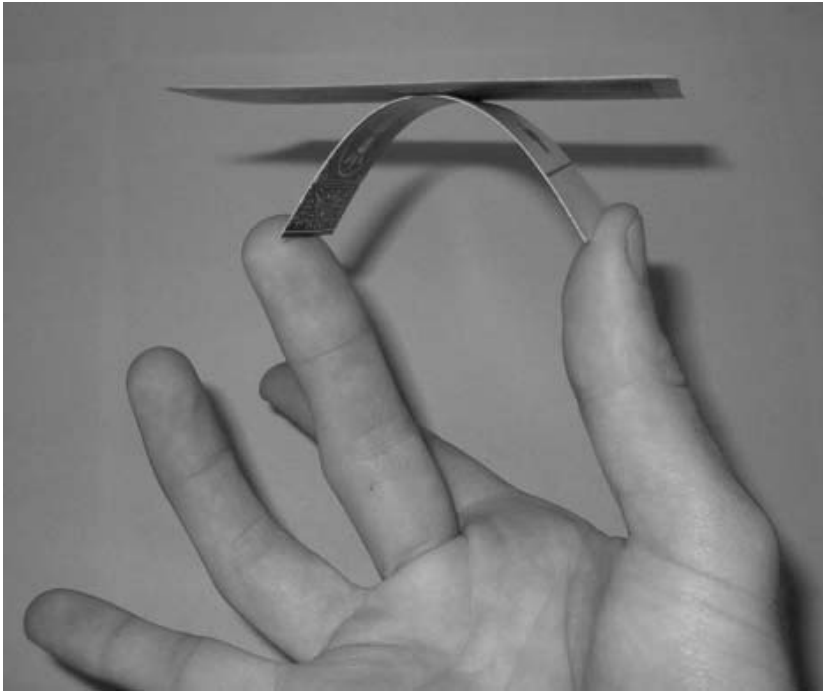


Figure 10 (The Exposed View)

When performing this in a one-on-one setting, you can take advantage of a neat optical illusion that strengthens the effect even more.

Point the card squarely at the spectator. When the card begins to float, you'll notice that the tips of the middle finger and thumb drop off into the background behind the card. (See Figure 11)

So even if there was no gimmick and the card really did float off your fingers, that's pretty much what it would look like.

See how the card looks like it's way more above my hand than it really is? (I guess the jumbo index helps the card look a little closer to the camera too.) 😊



Figure 11

PRO POINTERS FOR EITHER IDEA:

POINTER #1: Try floating the card with your hand perpendicular to the floor (Fig. 12). Anyone who thinks you are somehow balancing the card with your fingers won't be able to explain how you do it SIDEWAYS.

HOWEVER: Don't run if they're not chasin'! In other words, don't do this move unless someone claims that you're just balancing the card on something.

BIG TIP: Don't move your hand WHILE the card is in free-float...it's a dead-giveaway.



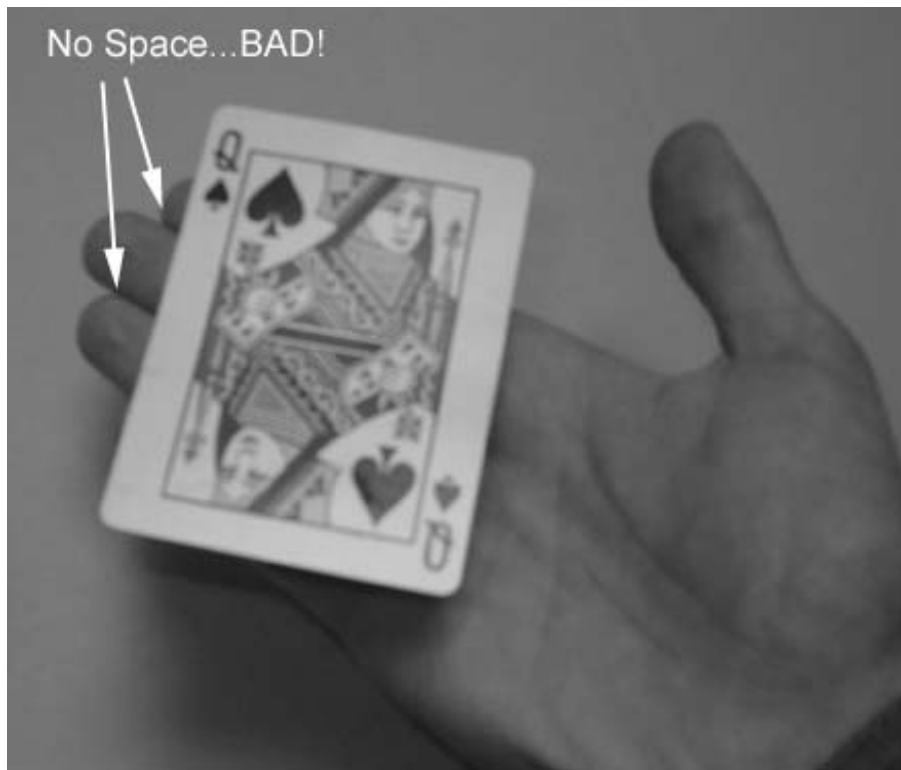
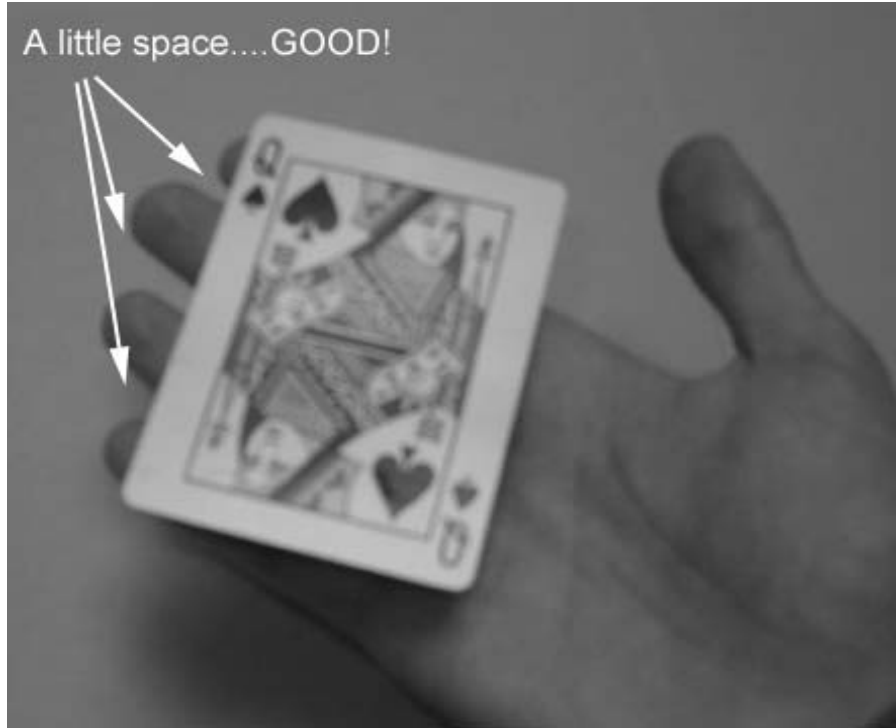
Figure 12

POINTER #2: WATCH YOUR ANGLES! Always keep the card between your spectator's eyes and the gimmick. If you do this trick at an obtuse angle, the spectators may catch a glimpse of the gimmick, as in the following photo.



Figure 13 (What NOT to do)

POINTER #3: Here's a tip I discovered AFTER we shot the photos for this book...Don't bring your fingers all the way together while floating the card. It looks more natural if you leave a little space between your fingers. I'll let the photos explain.



Figures 14 & 15

**POINTER #4:** Before the audience gets there, put a *slight* bend in the gimmicked card. If the card is bent just right, it will look like it's floating higher.

It's a subtle touch, I know. But if you do all the little things right then you'll perform a minor miracle. If you don't, then you're just another amateur magician. Figure shows you which way to bend the card for maximum effect.

**WARNING:** Don't use this with "The Extra Move" or with the "Signed, No Switch Method".



Figure 16

## **The Set Up - ORIGINAL Method**

Once you've made your gimmick, and mastered a way to make it float, the set up for this trick is very minimal. Simply put the gimmicked card at the bottom of the deck and the matching, ungimmicked card at the top of the deck as shown in Figure 14.



Figure 17

Then square up the deck and hold it face down in “dealing position”. Dealing position is when you hold the deck the same way you would hold a sick gerbil when you’re nursing it back to health. Ummm...maybe you should just look at Figure 18.



Figure 18

That’s it; you’re ready to begin the trick!

## **The Performance - ORIGINAL Method**

The first obstacle to overcome is that you need to “force” your spectator to pick the gimmicked card and make him think that he has had a free choice in the matter. There are probably a thousand ways to do this, but I picked a version of the slip force that my grandfather showed me years ago.

It gets them to pick the bottom card, and they never have to see the back of the card (not that they would notice anything anyway, but you can never be too safe).

Here’s how to do it:

Start by holding the deck in left-hand dealing position as previously mentioned.

With your right fingertips, start pulling back cards one or two at a time. Only slide them back a little bit as shown. Tell the spectator to say “stop” at any card and that will be their selection (or so they think). Notice how my right thumb is UNDER the pack of cards.



Figure 19

When the spectator says stop ask him if he is sure, or if he would like to change his mind. If he wants to change his mind, then keep pulling back more cards until he says stop again. If he wants to keep the mind that he has, then do the “slip”.

#### THE SLIP

You want it to look like you’re cutting the cards where he tells you and the card you cut to will be his randomly selected card. In reality, you WILL split the deck where he tells you, but as you take the top half off, you also add the bottom card (the gimmicked card that we’re trying to force) to the top half of the deck. See Figure 17 for details.

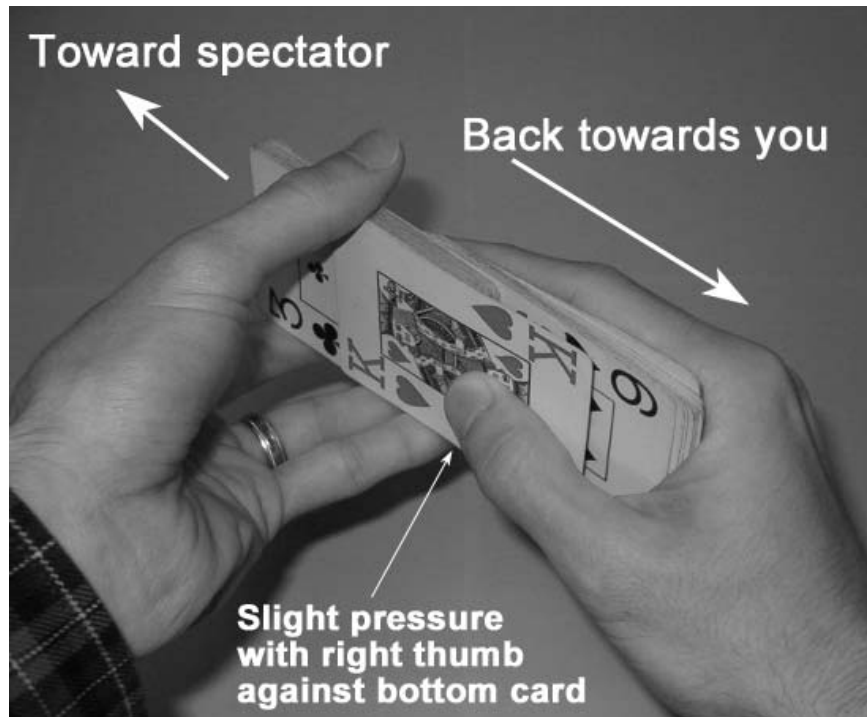


Figure 20 (Exposed View)

Be sure to do this move smoothly. Not too fast, but not too slow either. Keep it natural. Also, keep everything face down until after the “slip” move.

Once you’ve got the gimmicked card in position, turn your right hand half over to reveal the face of the gimmicked card. Say something like: “Okay, you stopped me at the King of Hearts so that’s the one we’ll use for this experiment.”



Figure 21

Thumb the selected card face up onto the table and replace the top half back on top of the deck. It is important that your duplicate, ungimmicked card remain on top of the deck. You can give the deck a quick FALSE shuffle here if you’d like, but it isn’t necessary.

You can see that the gimmicked card will lay flat and everything will appear quite normal (Figure 19). Don't call any attention to this fact because you may arouse suspicion.

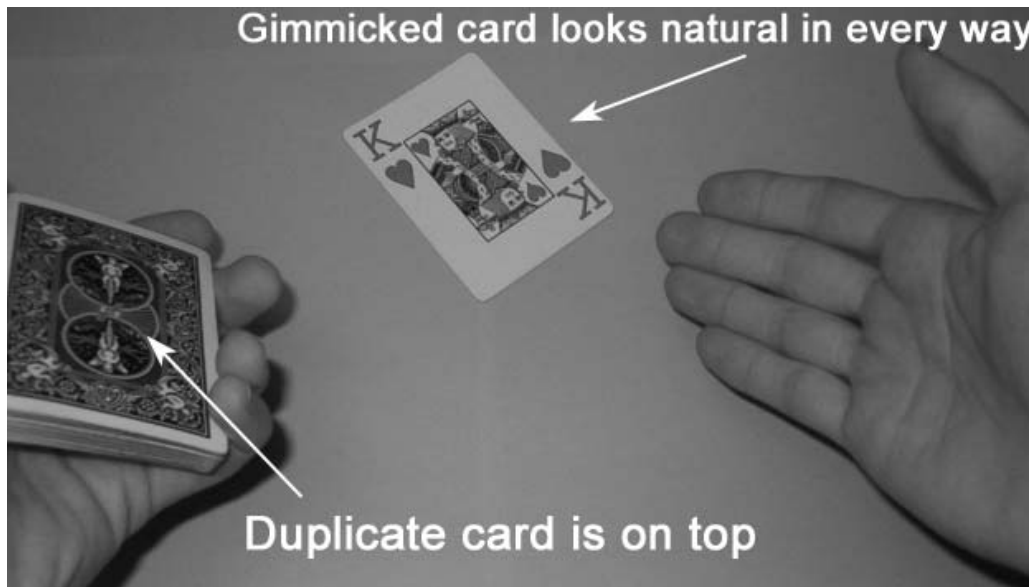


Figure 22



Figure 23

You can get away with briefly showing the back of the card before you make it float. Here's how: Scoop up the card with your right hand. Your fingers will be on the BACK of the card and your thumb will be on the FACE of the card. Place your fingertips along the near edge of the gimmick and apply *slight* pressure with your thumb to give the card a little curve. (Figure 20) This slight bending will keep the gimmick flush against the card and it will blend in quite well. In fact, if anyone notices the gimmick here, I'll be very surprised.

Now you're ready to float the card using any method that you prefer (explained earlier).

## The Cleanup- ORIGINAL Method

In order to hand out the card for examination, you're of course going to need to switch it for the matching ungimmicked card. To do that, we're going to do a "top change".

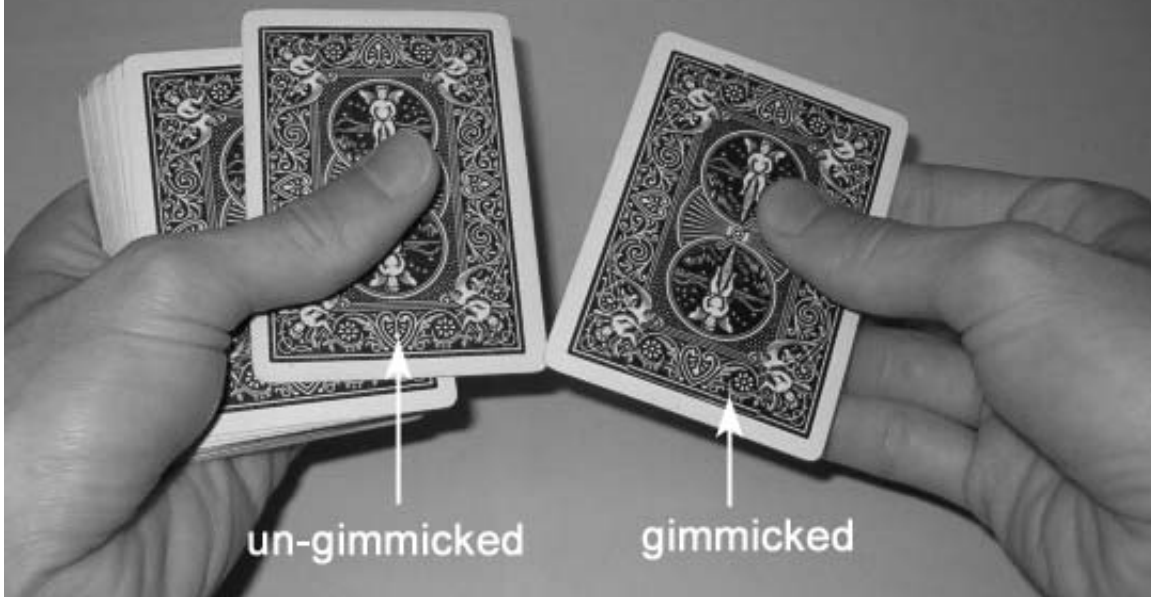
With a top change, timing and rhythm are more important than speed and sleight of hand, so practice each detail so everything is smooth.

Here's the sequence:

1. Hold the gimmicked card at eye level, face toward the spectator. Turn your head to look at the card.
2. Three things happen at the same time. As you move your gaze back toward the spectator, let your right hand (with the gimmicked card) fall down next to the left hand (holding the rest of the deck). During this time you will say something to the spectator. (ex. "All with the card that you picked.") Make sure the spectator makes eye contact with you and is not looking at the cards.
3. Switch the gimmicked card for the un-gimmicked one.
4. Hand the un-gimmicked card to the spectator and ask them if they would like to try floating the card.
5. OPTIONAL: While they're trying, give the rest of the deck a quick cut or shuffle to put the gimmicked card somewhere in the middle of the deck. OR, you can palm off the card and ditch the evidence in your pocket. If you're doing walk around, then do a trick shuffle or double undercut to get the gimmicked card back to the bottom and ready for the next presentation.

Step #3 may need some clarifying so here are some photos that describe how to switch the cards...

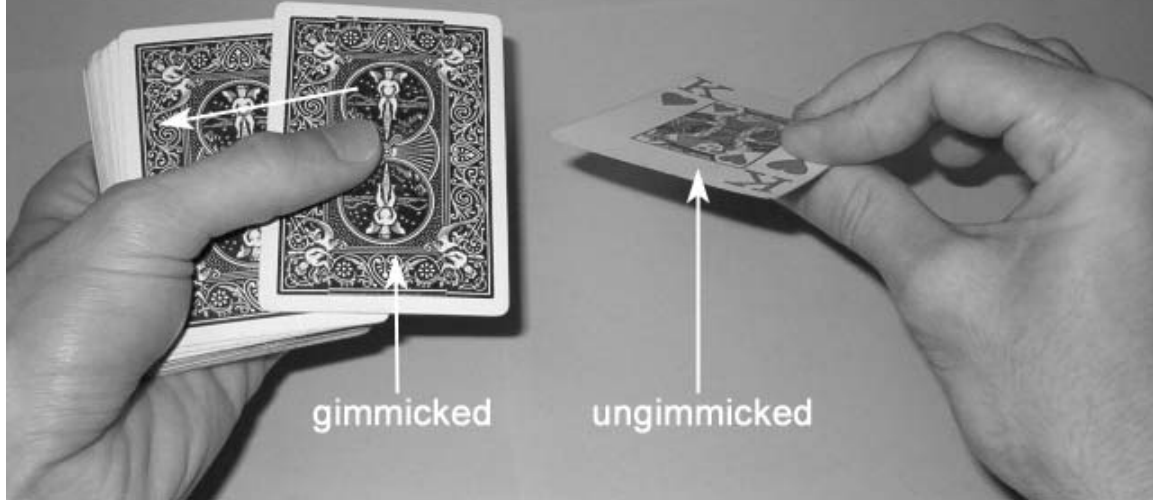
3a. Thumb off the duplicate card



3b. Gimmicked card slides OVER, un-gimmicked card slides UNDER. Cards are almost completely switched.



3c. Left thumb pulls gimmicked card flush with deck, right hand gives ungimmicked card to specator for examination.



That's it, you're clean! You've successfully performed the original method of the Free-Floating Card magic trick.

Read on to learn how to pass another card underneath the floating card (The extra move) and also learn how to float a signed card, pass another card underneath, then IMMEDIATELY hand it out for examination! (The Signed, No-Switch Method.)

## **BONUS IDEA #1: “The EXTRA Move”**

You may be wondering how I passed the other card UNDER the floating card in the video demo WITHOUT hitting the gimmick. If you have not seen the video demo, visit [www.free-floating-card-magic-trick.com](http://www.free-floating-card-magic-trick.com). The following move is really what makes the Free-Floating Card Trick so *convincing*.

“The EXTRA Move” is what will allow you to pass a card underneath your floating card.

Yes, you use the same method described above. Yes, it requires more work. And yes, you do need to add something special to the gimmick that you just made.

What’s the secret? Take your gimmicked card, and glue *another* card to the FACE of it. But don’t go and do anything just yet. You need to glue the card in a very special way. Here’s how:

Dab of glue about this size

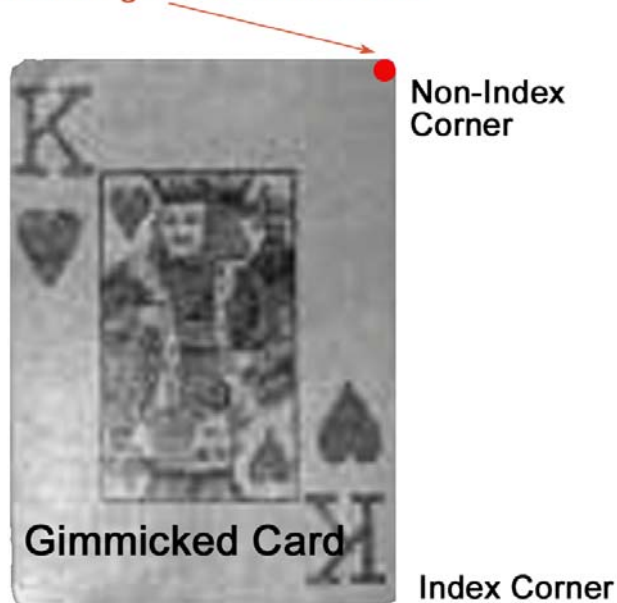


Figure 27

Grab your glue stick and place a TINY dab of glue in the corner of the card.

Does it matter which corner? YES! If you float the card with your right hand, place the glue in a non-index corner (a corner with no number). If you float the card with your left hand, place the glue in an index corner. Then place another card, face up, *exactly* square with the gimmick.

Place a heavy book on top of everything and let it dry. Be patient. Give it at least 24 hours. The glue needs to be completely dry for this to work.

When your new gimmick is done drying, it should look like it does in Figure (exposed view):

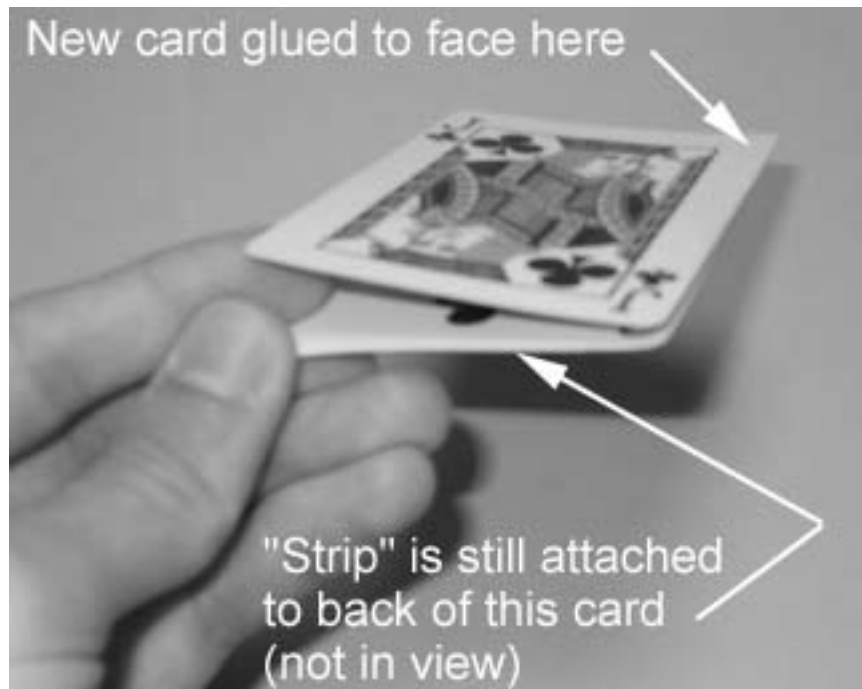


Figure 28 (Exposed view)

During performance, this two-card setup (plus the gimmick strip) will be held flat so it appears to be only one card. That is why it is so important to line up the edges and glue the cards together squarely.

Here is another "separated" view of the completed "EXTRA Move" gimmick:

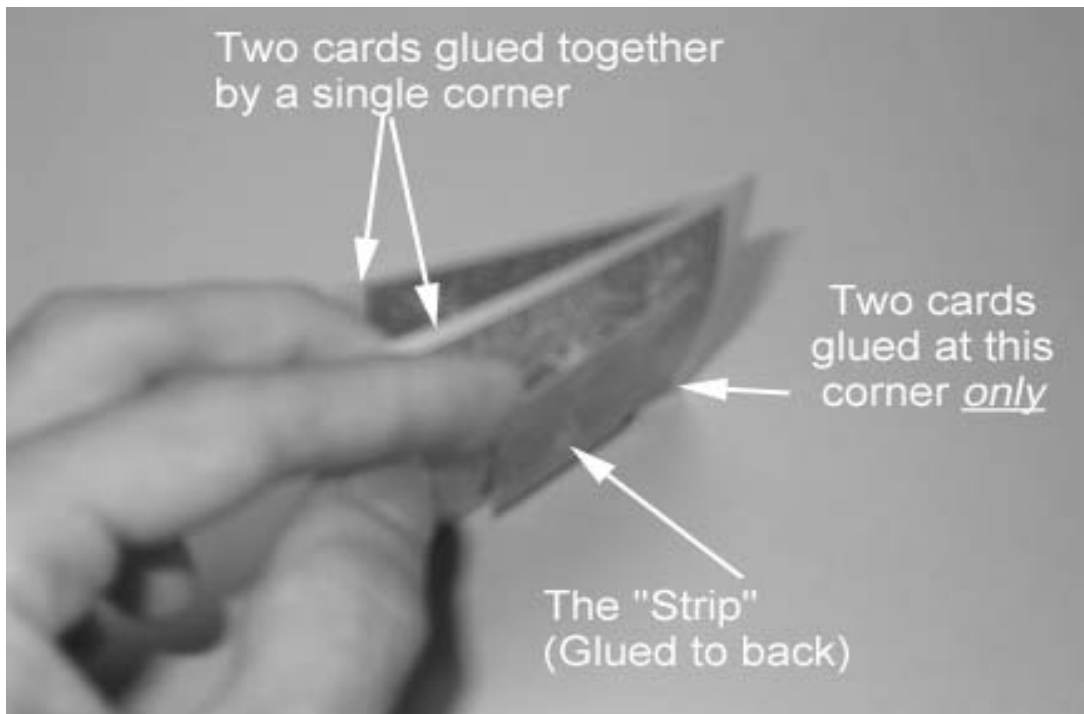


Figure 29

See that space between the cards? When you pass a card under the “floating” card, you are really passing it through that space. Get it? The card goes BETWEEN the gimmick and the extra card that is glued on top.

Of course you can’t pass it completely through, because of the dab of glue, but the illusion is convincing enough (and it’s a lot better than trying to pass the card under WITHOUT the extra move gimmick!)

If you watch the demo video again and you’ll notice that the card doesn’t go completely under the floating card... you’ll see that I avoid the corner that has the dab of glue!

It takes a bit of a knack to get the card in between during performance, but after you practice for a while you’ll find that you can hit that spot pretty quickly and naturally.

The only downside to this method is that the spectator is more likely to notice something fishy with the card you are floating (in actuality it is TWO cards...well, two and a half). You can try it both ways and decide what you like best for your particular performance situation. You can also try...

## **BONUS IDEA #2: The “SIGNED, NO SWITCH” Method**

How would you like to be able to do this trick with a different card every time without having to make a new gimmick? How would you like to do it with a FREELY selected card (i.e. no force)? A SIGNED card (i.e. no switch)?

Better yet, how would you like to hand the signed card out to the spectator IMMEDIATELY after floating it? They’ll be able to examine it all they want, but they’ll find nothing.

Sound impossible? It’s not!

Here’s how you do it:

Step 1: Make a basic gimmick according to the instructions on pages 3-6 of this ebook.

Step 2: Place a small piece of double-stick tape on the corner of the face of the card. (Non-index corner for right-hand floaters and index corner for left-hand floaters.)

Step 3: Place gimmicked card onto the bottom of a normal, matching deck of cards.

Step 4: Have a spectator FREELY select ANY card (except for the bottom, gimmicked card). Here you can have the card signed by the spectator if you want.

Step 5: Have the spectator return his/her signed card to the top of the deck, cut the cards, and complete the cut, effectively “losing the card somewhere in the middle of the deck”.

NOTE: What actually happened is you now have the signed card stuck to the gimmick (by the piece of double-stick tape). You're setup, ready for floating, AND also ready for the “EXTRA Move”.

Step 6: Since the gimmick is easy to find in the deck, trick shuffle or just cut the card (actually cards) to the bottom of the pack.

Step 7: Patter about signatures and how people identify with them. “For example, if you picked another card, you would be 217% more likely to pick the same one because it has your signature and you will be naturally drawn to it.” (or whatever)

Perform the “slip force” (described earlier in this ebook) and get the spectator to choose their own signed card again! That's magic in itself, but hold your horses!

Step 8: Float the card, take the top card off the deck and pass it under the floating card. (Described earlier in this ebook)

Step 9: Don't let the audience see the face of the card that you passed under, but flip it face up and put it underneath the gimmick. Casually break the tape hold and hand out their signed card. No switch needed! They'll assume that the gimmicked card is the one you passed underneath and you're clean. Put the gimmicked card and the card you passed under on top of the deck as though they were ONE CARD.

(Special thanks to Steven Minor for this contribution)

## **How to Make Money with this Trick**

### **What is an affiliate program?**

An affiliate, re-seller, referral, or associate program is a program that uses special URLs and cookies to track where web site visitors come from.

Commissions are paid to anyone who refers a paying customer.

Put simply, if you send a visitor to our web site and they end up buying the trick, you'll earn 60% of the profits.

### Who pays me?

An independent company called ClickBank handles the sales processing and payment to affiliates. Therefore we don't touch your money and it's impossible for us to cheat you in any way. ClickBank is the leader in digital information affiliation and credit card processing and the checks are sent out like clockwork. To earn money with this affiliate program you will need a ClickBank account.

If you do not have a ClickBank account, visit <http://clickbank.com/signup/> to sign up -- This is free to do.

### When do I get paid?

ClickBank sends out checks twice a month. You can also log in and view real time stats.

### Who should join?

Anybody with a ClickBank account can start earning commissions immediately. The people who will have the most success with the program are those who are involved with magic in some way:

- Magic shop owners
- Magic-related web site owners
- Magicians
- Magic Lecturers
- Magic magazine or ezine publishers
- Harry Potter web site owners
- Poker web site owners
- Other card game web site owners
- And others

### How do I start earning money?

Once you have your ClickBank ID, link to our site using the following URL:

**<http://xxxxx.timdavid.hop.clickbank.net>**

*Replace "xxxxx" with your Clickbank ID*

#### **Example:**

If your ClickBank username is **magicboy**, your affiliate link would look like this:

<http://magicboy.timdavid.hop.clickbank.net>

I hope you enjoy the Free-Floating Card. Be sure to give it the time and practice it deserves. Done correctly, this trick will really fry people's minds.



Tim David, Magic Works