



# Inside Ed's Head

February 2014

## Double, Double, Toil and Trouble (Blow Their Minds, Just Like a Bubble)

### Push-off Double Lift from a Four-Card Packet Push-off Double Lift from the Deck

I know I promised you a trick by Peter Duffie for this month, but after writing it, I saw it was too long—almost 2500 words. The reason it was so long is that I went into detail on two of the sleights used in the trick: the double lift and the E.Y.E. Count. I'll use this month, and the next, to discuss these sleights and other issues. I promise I'll get to Peter Duffie's trick as soon as I can.

I know all of you can do a double lift, so you're probably wondering why I'd spend time on it. If I may be somewhat immodest here, it's because I've fooled many people, including one with a national reputation, with a **push-off** double lift.

As I was doing a packet trick for said magician, I saw him following the moves I was doing, but then I noticed his expression change after the double lift. He didn't see me do any get-ready, so he must have assumed that I really had turned over a single card. This, of course, made what came before and after completely impossible. When I was done, he told me he was completely fooled, and bought me lunch. Later, I taught him the trick, but as he didn't ask about the double lift, I didn't bother teaching it. When he did the trick for me later, he stopped and got a break at the appropriate moment. This was a dead giveaway. I still didn't feel I should correct his technique, and feel bad about it to this day.

The method for this lift originated with Brother John Hammon<sup>1</sup>. Unlike a push-off double lift from a full pack, this lift is **very easy**. I **INSIST** that you learn it! Perhaps you might get a magician to buy you lunch.

### Push-off Double Lift from a Four Card Packet

#### Step 1.

Start with the four card packet in Mechanic's Grip in your left hand. Move your left thumb to the upper left side of the packet, and push off the top three cards to the right, a little less than ½ inch. All you're doing is pushing all the cards above the bottom card off to the side. Simultaneously, your right hand grasps the cards on the right side, about an inch from the top

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<sup>1</sup> Card College 3, by Roberto Giobbi, p. 577

Secrets of Brother John Hammon, by Richard Kaufman, p. 11

Quantum Leaps, by Harry Lorayne, p. 19

corner. The upper right corner of the three-card block should be touching the tip of your left middle finger.



Photo 1



Photo 2

### Step 2.

Your left middle finger will push up lightly on the bottom of the three card packet and your right thumb will apply a little downward pressure, This will allow your left thumb to push off the two top cards in perfect alignment. (Note: Photo 3 is a static view in the middle of the move. As the entire move takes less than a second, the spectator will **not** see a three-card fan.)



Photo 3

### Step 3.

Your right hand moves the double card to the right and flips it over book-wise, as your left hand squares its two cards. (Photo 4. Next page.) I prefer to catch the double on the heel of my left thumb (the Altman Trap). Then, when I want to turn the double face down, all I have to do is squeeze the thumb to the right, and the double is easy to reacquire. (Photo 5)



Photo 4



Photo 5

## Push-off Double Turnover From the Deck

Once I realized how powerful the push-off double lift was, I looked for a way to do it from a full deck, because despite what my friends said, I **was** using a full deck, well, most of the time.

(Please note: the Peter Duffie trick does **not** use a double lift from the deck, it uses a four-card packet. I'm including this technique here because of its tie-in with the packet double lift.)

While reading Expert Card Technique, by Hugar and Braue, I came across a two card push-off used in the context of a second deal (p. 13). It reliably kept the two cards in nearly perfect alignment. I realized that this push-off would also be ideal for a double lift. I worked on this for

a while, but found that the placement of my left thumb at the top right side of the deck was unnatural for me. I noticed that I could move my thumb to a more comfortable position at the left side of the deck, and achieve the same results by using the **side** of my thumb to do the push-off. Later, I came across Martin Nash's "Knockout Double Lift from Ever So Slightly (p.17) and "The Natural Double Lift" in Harry Lorayne's The Card Classics of Ken Krenzel (p. 13). I amalgamated all these ideas into the double lift I do now.

I should mention two things. The condition of the deck effects the way the move will work. Once you know how to do the move well, you'll be able to adjust to all but the stickiest of decks, but at the beginning, I suggest a new, or almost new deck is the best way to go.

The condition of your hands is also important. If your skin is very dry, you might have some trouble with this move. I find that during the winter there are some sleights that are impossible for me to do without applying hand lotion first. If you find yourself in that situation, find a hand preparation that will work.

### Step 1.

Hold the deck in Mechanic's grip. To start the turnover, you'll do three things almost simultaneously. You'll tilt the deck upward, to obscure the top of the deck somewhat from the spectator's view. It's not necessary to "necktie" the deck; a little upward tilt will do. Your left thumb will move to the upper left side of the deck, angled in such a manner that contact with the edge of the deck is in the middle of the left side of your first thumb joint. (Photo 6 next page.) Your right hand will move to the deck and place its thumb on the right side of the deck, about an inch below the top corner.



Photo 6. Right Hand removed to show top of deck.

### Step 2.

Your left thumb will press downward **lightly** on the side of the deck and begin pushing off to the right. With some practice, the top two cards will move off closely together, but this is **not** necessary to accomplish the move. Photo 7, below, shows a push-off where the cards are not flush. This is not a problem. The spectators won't notice any discrepancy if you do the move smoothly. (Although, with practice, your push-offs will get to be almost flush, certainly no wider than the width of the white border.)



Photo 7. Right Hand removed to show top of deck.

### Step 3.

Move your right second finger to the face of the second card, so you'll be able to grasp the double. Your first finger will rest on the outside edge of the double to help align the cards at the front. Several things will happen now. Your thumb and second finger will pull the bottom card of the double into approximate alignment with the top card. (Photo 8.) You'll begin to lever the right side of the double up, using the top of the deck as the fulcrum point. Contact of the left side of the double against the top of the deck will align the double at the sides when you flip the double over. (Photo 9.)



Photo 8



Photo 9



Photo 10 (Spectator's View)

### Step 4

From the position in Photo 9, your right fingers will give the cards a little push so they turn over and land on the top of the deck. As they land, you'll lower the far end of the deck so the front of the double will hit against the left index finger, aligning it at the front (Photo 10), and the fingers and thumb will align the cards at the sides.

As I begin the lift, I look at the deck briefly to ascertain the quality of my push-off. This enables me to execute the move confidently. I then look up at the spectator as I complete the double lift, as I believe it's more natural to look at and converse with a spectator than to study the top of the deck as you turn a card over.

I hope you find these lifts of value. If you don't start learning the push-off double lift from a four card packet, you'll deprive yourself of what I consider to be the most valuable move I've ever learned.

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