



Inside Ed's Head

June 2014

John Bannon Steps Up! (No, it's not a Mirage.)

Featuring: John Bannon's Be-Bop Deluxe

If you happened to read my “Lord of the Kings,” in the October 2012 issue of *The Linking Ring*, you know I like plots where the four-of-a-kind you were using changes to four different cards. You also might have read that I'm a fan of Peter Kane's “Jazz Aces.” This month, courtesy of John Bannon, we present a trick that combines both elements.

It's hard to believe that it's been over twenty years since I first heard about Mr. Bannon. I still remember the excitement I felt when I read his books *Impossibilia* and *Smoke and Mirrors*. After seeing him lecture here, I also sought out an earlier book, *Mirage*. Mr. Bannon graciously allowed me to use a trick from that book for this month's column.

I believe all of John's books, except *Mirage*, are still in print. He also has several DVDs and tricks for sale. (“Twisted Sister” has become a classic.) You'd be well served to pick up what you don't already own. His website is www.johnbannonmagic.com

Be-Bop Deluxe

Effect:

Four aces are shown and placed face down on the table. You display four red cards in your hand. You place a red card on the “leader ace,” and place one of the other aces among the red cards. After an elegant magical gesture, the cards in your hand are shown to be all red. You repeat this procedure with the next two aces. For the denouement, you pick up the leader pile and display it—but instead of the expected four aces, it contains four queens!

Set-up:

Start with a packet of nine cards, from the top: AS, QD, AC, AD, 7H, QC, QS, 6D, 8D.

Method:

1. Spread off the top four cards and place the other cards face down on the table. Re-take the packet of four into left-hand dealing position. You'll now apparently place four aces on the table into standard “T” formation using Ed Marlo's Olram subtlety.

A

B

C

D

2. Deal the top card face down into your right hand. Turn both hands palm down to display the face of the Ace of Spades in your right hand, and the face of the Ace of Diamonds in the left. (I like to obscure the pip on the Ace of Diamonds with my left index finger as I do this so the audience doesn't see exactly which ace it is.) Turn both hands palm up, and place the right hand's card face down at position "C." Thumb off the *top* card of the left hand packet (QD) and place it at position "D." Now take the *bottom* card of the left hand packet (AD) into your right hand, and turn your hands palm down again. This will show two aces. Place them at positions "A" and "B."
3. Pick up the remaining cards face down in left-hand dealing position. You'll display them as four red cards using Jerry Hartman's "Up Count." I discussed this quite extensively in last month's issue, but for the sake of completeness, here's a brief description:
 - a. Take the top card face down in your right hand and display the face of the card to the audience.
 - b. Place this card *under* the packet as you push off the next two cards into your right hand, as you'd do in a regular Elmsley count.. Display the face card of this packet to your audience.
 - c. Take the next card *under* those in the right hand and display its face.
 - d. Do the same for the last card. The order of the cards should now be: QC, QS, 6D, 8D, 7H.

(Note: You can do a face-up Elmsley count here. Although the order of the red cards will differ, it's immaterial in this case. Elmsley counts will work just fine in place of the Up count for this effect. As noted last month, the Up count is more visible to audience members who are sitting when you perform standing, but you could do my Upside-down Elmsley as well—also described in last month's column. For a discussion of the "normal" Elmsley count, see the March, 2014 issue of "Inside Ed's Head.")

4. Place the top card on top of the "Ace" at position "D." (If you wish, you can do a quadruple lift first, apparently showing the top card as red. You can do this easily with a push off, or single buckle.)
5. Pick up the ace at position "A" with your right hand, thumb on top, fingers below, and display it. You'll now place it into the middle of the packet as follows: Thumb off the top card of the left-hand packet on top of the ace in your right, then thumb off the next card on top of both, being careful to maintain the double in your left hand. Place these cards onto the left-hand double. It appears that you've simply counted the ace to the third position in a four-card packet.

6. Make a dramatic gesture, and once again show you have all red cards via an Up or Elmsley count. The order of the packet is now QS, AD, and three red cards.
7. Drop a “red card” at position “D,” as you did in step 4.
8. Pick up the ace at position “B” and count it into the packet as in step 5. The order of the cards is now 7H,AD,AC, and two red cards.
9. Display the packet as all red, as above.
10. Count the last ace into the packet as before, and again show the packet to be all red.
11. Place the packet aside, pick up the top card of the leader pile (AD), and use it to scoop up the entire leader packet into face-down left-hand dealing position. Try to flash the face of this card as you do so. The audience will assume you’re about to show them the four aces.
12. Elmsley count the four face-down cards as you patter about the apparent transpositions.
13. Turn the packet face up, and Elmsley count to show four queens.

(Note: If you wish, after you've finished step 11, you may end the trick more quickly by simply picking up the leader packet, turning it face up, and doing a Jordan count to show four queens.)

I must mention that John Bannon uses a different method for placing the ace third from the top than the one I used in step 5. His approach is to take the top card of the left-hand packet into the right hand, and place it, down-jogged, on top of the ace. He then lifts these two cards, thumb on top, fingers below, maintaining the jogged configuration. His left thumb then pushes the top card of its packet slightly to the right, so he can insert the two cards into the packet; the ace remains up-jogged. He now turns the packet so the audience can see its face, and very cleanly pushes the ace flush. I believe this method allows you to hide the extra card somewhat better, but the pickup of the two cards is somewhat more awkward. The choice is yours.

Next month: I provide a sticky solution to a Tom Craven trick.

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