



Inside Ed's Head

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In the September issue, I promised my Ambitious Card routine would appear in October. Unfortunately, a case of pneumonia messed up my schedule. From now on, no more promises.

The Borgia Cards, Part One (A Tale of an Ambitious Family)

Effect: The spectator names any card. You remove it from the deck, and demonstrate its magical properties by placing it into the middle of the deck, only to have it jump back to the top. You repeat this two or three more times.

You then give the card to the spectator, and begin spreading the deck from hand to hand. You ask him to touch three different cards. You outjog each of these cards as he does so. You remove these cards and turn them over—they are the mates to his selection!

Preface: This is a routine of several different pieces. It is by no means necessary to use all of them.

The Pieces

- **The Cull.** This sets up the ending, where the spectator magically finds the three mates to the card he originally named. If you don't want to use that ending, you can skip the cull and use only the "Ambitious Card" portion of this routine.
- **The Spin Move.** This is a flourish that you use as a convincer that the card you've just turned face up on top of the deck is a single card, even though it's actually a double or a triple. It is hardly essential to the success of the routine, but certainly adds to it. I'll publish it next month.
- **The First Three Rises.** This piece is a standard Ambitious Card routine. Its construction makes the initial triple lift very easy, a strong point in its favor. It's also structured to leave the top cards of the deck undisturbed, so if you've culled the mates to

the top of the deck, they'll still be there. If you don't already have a simple Ambitious Card routine, this one is as good as any, and gives you the ability to add a killer ending. You may use any series of moves you want here, but if you want to do the "Find the Mates" phase, you must be sure that the top three cards of the deck remain there throughout the routine.

- The Final Rise. This time, you place the named card in the deck face up, and it rises to the top in a rather startling manner. It's also the most difficult segment of the routine, so it can be left out if you desire. I'll write it up next month.
- Finding the Mates. This adds an extra bit of impossibility to the experience, and more importantly, a climax, which is often missing from Ambitious Card routines. The spectator touches three cards in the deck, and finds the mates to his freely named card. Even a magician is likely to say, "Where the hell did **those** come from?" This will also be included next month.

Method: Before you begin, bow the long sides of the deck downward so the deck will appear somewhat like an upside down "U" when seen from the end. (This will facilitate the "spin move" that I'll describe later, and the double and triple lifts, as well.) You'll need a complete deck for this trick. Ideally, the spectator should be aware that it's in no particular order.

Ask the spectator to name any card in the deck. When he does so, begin looking through the deck for it. In reality, you'll use steps 2 - 6 of the Combination Cull (see "Inside Ed's Head," August 2014, www.edhassmagic.com/eds-head) to get its three mates to the top of the deck. (Of course, you can use any cull you like.)

Briefly: Spread through the deck until you come to the first mate of the named selection. Break the spread with the mate on top of the left-hand portion. Spread the left-hand cards on **top** of those in the right hand, downjogging the mate as you do this.

When you come to the next mate, thumb it on top of the downjogged card, and then spread the left-hand portion on **top** of these two cards. When you come to the third mate, separate the sections so the mate is on the **bottom** of the right hand portion. When you square the right hand portion, the three mates will end up together; the lowermost one will be injogged. Continue spreading the rest of the deck on top, in your quest to find the named card. When you "fail" to find that card on your first pass through the deck, place it face down in your left

hand—maintaining the injog. Now get a break above the jogged card, and double cut the three mates to the top of the deck.

After running through the deck to cull the cards, make an excuse for not finding their selection by saying something like, “Either I’ve made your card magically vanish from the deck, or it’s time to get my eyes checked. I’ll try one more time.”

Now begin spreading the cards into your right hand, downjogging the second card from the face. Then continue spreading until you find the selection. Upjog this card for half its length and square the **face-up** deck into your left hand (being careful not to disturb the injogged card second from the face). Now strip out the selection, and place it on the face of the deck. Lift the injogged card with your right thumb as you square it with the deck, to enable you to pick up a triple card from the face of the deck, thumb at the rear, fingers in front. (Photo 1.)



Photo 1. Injogged card exaggerated for clarity.



Photo 2

Flip the deck face down in your left hand and drop the triple, face up, on top of the deck. (Photo 2.) You can now perform the “Spin Move” as an added convincer that the face-up card on top is a single card. (You’ll have to wait ‘til the next column for the explanation.)

Turn the triple face down. You should now have two X cards on top of the deck, followed by the selection, and finally, the three mates to the selection.

Take off the top card and insert it into the middle of the pack. Tell the spectator that you are about to see if he’s chosen a magical card.

[As mentioned in the previous issue of “Ed’s Head,” you have a choice of several different methods for doing the last (face-up) rise of the sequence. If you choose to use the Tilt - Erdnase Color Change version, you might consider inserting the card from the back.]

Now you must make a “magical gesture.” The gesture you use should be the one you’ll use if you intend to do the last, face-up, ambitious

phase of the routine. I use a "Midnight Shift," so I do the reverse all-around square. If you do a jiggle pass, jiggle the deck. If you want to use the Erdnase color change option, wave your hand over the deck. You get the idea.

After this gesture, do a double lift (see "The Push-off Double Lift," from "Inside Ed's Head," February 2014), and show that the selection has returned to the top. Turn the double face down again, place the top card in the middle, and make your magic gesture. Turn over the single card to show it's back on top. Leave the card face up.

The next face-down rise uses a Wesley James idea to have the card arrive on the top once again. Buckle the bottom card, and take the deck in Biddle grip in the right hand. Get a break above the bottom card with your right thumb. Use your right forefinger to swing cut the top half of the deck into the left hand. (The selection is now face up on the left-hand section.) Thumb the selection a bit to the right and use the left edge of the right-hand packet to flip it facedown. Move your right hand so its middle and ring fingers can touch the left packet about two inches from the top, and push the selection forward until it's outjogged about two inches. (Photo 3.)



Photo 3

When this happens, the card below the break will end up squarely aligned with the left-hand cards. Use your left fingers to transfer this card to the top of these cards. Now rotate your left hand palm down, under cover of the right hand, more or less using the left edge of the packets as a hinge. The selection will be outjogged at the back of the

left-hand packet. (Photo 4.)



Photo 4 (There is an X card below the Four of Clubs.)

With your left index finger, pull the selection flush with the packet. As you do this, rotate the left hand palm up again, and **immediately** thumb the top card off to the right. The retention of vision is remarkable. Even you might think the selection is on top.

Push this sidejogged card into the center of the right hand cards. (Photo 5.) Now use your left thumb to lift up about half of its packet, book wise. (Photo 6.)



Photo 5



Photo 6

Place the right-hand cards into this gap, square up the entire deck, and push the outjogged card flush.

Make your magic gesture and turn the selection face up on top of the deck. Leave it face up for the last rise in the sequence. (Its three mates are now directly underneath it.)

You've now completed the basic Ambitious Card sequence. You can end right now, snapping your fingers to bring "the rest of the family" to the top, or you can add the material I hope to be teaching next month.

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