

Blackjack Production

Effect: Magician produces the four aces, pauses for a second and decides to make four hands of blackjack. The four jacks materialize under the aces, extremely visual.

We have two versions of this production; they both require the same setup. Here are the two versions, fully explained.

Setup for Version 1 and 2:

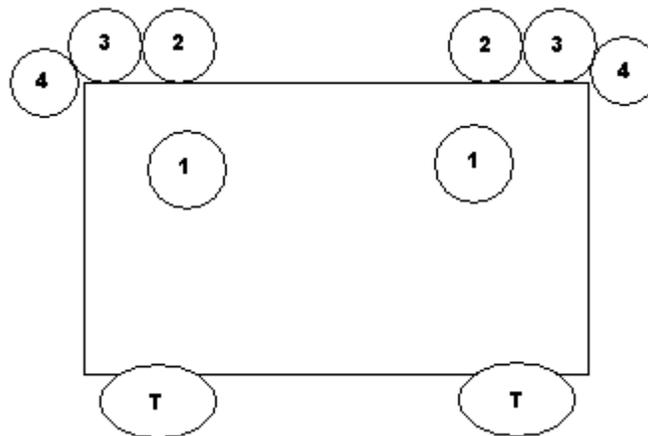
From bottom up

Ac-Jd-Ad-Ah-Js _____ Jc-As-Jh

NOTE: The line separating the setup represents the deck, thus your setup should read, five cards on bottom-rest of deck- three cards on top.

Explanation for Version 1:

Place the deck face down on the table, as if you were going to give it a riffle shuffle. Place both hands on each side of the deck, thumbs at rear, index fingers on top, and second and third finger in front. Fourth fingers do nothing just relax them next to your third fingers.

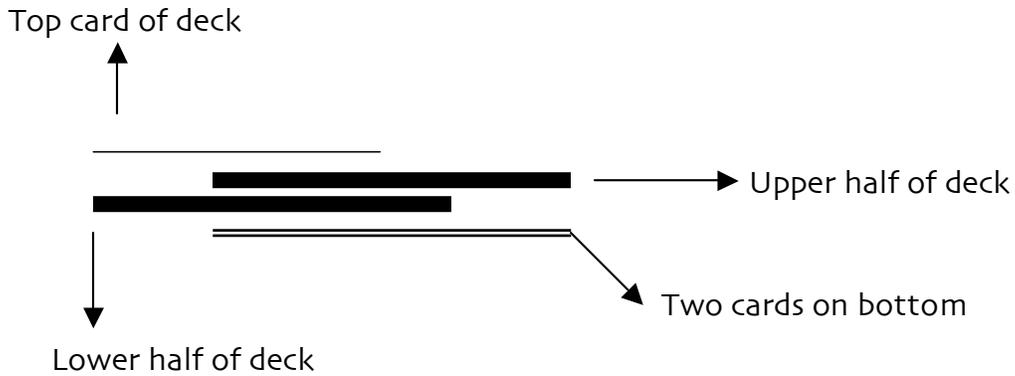


With your left thumb riffle down the bottom two cards as your right thumb gets a break in the center of the deck. Situation check: two cards on the table below the deck; left hand holding the lower half of the deck, right hand holding the upper half of the deck with the index fingers on top.

You're now going to strip out the lower half of the deck to the left with your left hand. Simultaneously do the Erdnase "Blind Cut" method I. or the Slip Cut, which is a variation of the Erdnase method, with the left hand. After stripping the lower

portion out all the way, the top card should be on the top of the left hand portion. See the diagram below for a visual of what should be happening.

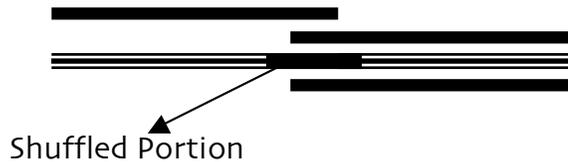
In the process of:



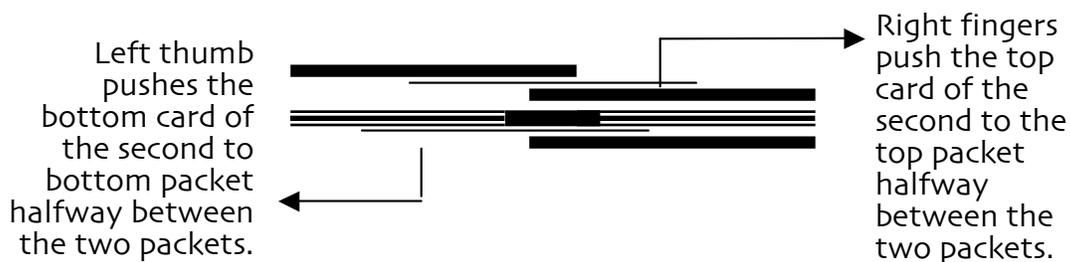
After:



You're now going to riffle shuffle the two portions together, but in an unusual way. First drop a small portion of the right hand packet on the table, now start to riffle shuffle the cards. When you reach the top 7 to 10 cards stop, drop the right hand packet and then the left hand packet.



Tilt the deck up so that its back is to the audience (the edge of the cards should be perpendicular with the table). Your thumbs should be on the face of the deck and fingers at the back. Your right hand fingers are going to push the top card of the second to the top packet halfway between the two packets. With the left hand push the bottom card of the second to bottom packet half way in. NOTE: This action is identical to the right hand, using the thumb. See the diagram below for a visual of what should be happening.



Your thumbs and fingers' grab the extreme edges of the deck, so they don't contact the in-jogged cards. Strip the interwoven packets apart and show the four aces.

The sequence just described is the same thing as "Shuffled Aces" found in our book *Artifice Ruse and Subterfuge in the hands*. Only this one is done on the table instead of in the hands. The idea of producing cards in this manner belongs to Steve Freeman.

With your fingers still on the back of the two packets and thumbs at the front you're going to apply pressure equally to the front and back. By moving your hands upward the top and bottom cards will slide off the deck, once done, each hand will contain two cards, an ace and a jack. Place each pair above the deck, which contains jacks on top and the aces out-jogged in the center. In the end you will have four sets of blackjack hands matched perfectly in suites.

Explanation for Version 2:

The second version of this production is based on the first; everything is the same with the exception of the last paragraph. Therefore in learning version 2, read up until the second to last paragraph and skip down to the paragraph below.

You have just stripped out the interwoven packets and shown the four aces. Place the packets on the table, and place each hand on the packets as if you were going to riffle shuffle, obviously you're not going to shuffle them. Riffle down the bottom card (jack) of each packet and get a thumb break above the card.

Pick up both packets with the out-jogged aces in each one and bring them forward. The next two steps happen at the same time.

1. Drop the bottom card (jack) of each packet onto the table, this is extremely easy to do, just release the bottom card.
2. With your index finger curled on top of each packet, with an ace on top of each. Straighten both your index fingers; you will see that the aces

slide off of each packet. You can position the aces to where you want them to go by sliding your index fingers to the desired position. You want the aces to fall onto the Jacks, once done, slide the packets back to their original position and display the four hands of blackjack.

We hope you enjoy these productions or at least the idea of producing four hands of Blackjack. A nice thing about this production is that all the cards start face down. This gives you the advantage to false shuffle and cut before going into the production.