

David Copperfield - Grandpa's Trick

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EFFECT

This is not such a bad card trick but David doesn't perform ordinary tricks, so he has made a dramatic story out of the following thing: "When I was a little boy, I was stupid, clumsy and couldn't deal with the ladies, so I walked round the neighbourhood, having nothing to do. But my grandpa didn't like the way it went, he tied me down to the chair and showed me this card trick, which I had to learn by heart. I'd been practicing it for 4 months when I finally achieved good results. I gave a promise to include my grandpa's trick in my show, if I ever become a famous illusionist. My grandfather had died not long before I became famous and I am going to make my promise now".

The audience burst into applause, wiping away their tears. The trick begins - there is a small table on the stage; operator is taping it and this translation goes on to a big screen, so everyone can see what's happening. David mixes a pack of cards, then he takes out four aces, three of which he puts near three packs with three cards in each, and the fourth ace he places in the middle of the table. Then he takes the first small pack, turns the cards their backside to us and puts one of aces on top of it, also backside to us.

He covers the card with his palm for a second and the ace disappears; only three cards instead of four are left. He demonstrates these cards, placing them one by one on the table. Then he goes onto the next small pack, takes it in his hands but this time front side to us. He puts the second ace on top, also front side to us. Then he covers the cards with his free hand for a while and the ace disappears again and only three cards are left. Same with the third small pack. All three aces have gone. The next moment he places his hand on the fourth ace, which is on the middle of the table, carefully moves it to the side, and we see, that those three aces, that have disappeared, are lying under the fourth ace on the table!

METHOD

The cards, which David uses in this trick, are not so ordinary. They are very thin, cards from the basics series used in casinos all over the world. There is one more thing about them: their front side is absolutely normal, but their backside is covered with a special substance, which prevents the card from sliding on the table or another card. There are seven aces in the pack, which go in a special order. David doesn't make any useless moves. For example, when he divides the pack in two parts, four aces go under one half of the pack and he gracefully throws them on the table one by one.



There is something fishy about the fourth ace: when David throws it out of the pack, it doesn't fall out alone - the ace takes three of his colleagues with it. They go under it and David carefully holds the ends of these cards, so they won't accidentally slide apart. You can't see the aces below due to their thinness. Well, everything is ready for the main act. There are three aces on the table, the fourth one (ace of spades) with three other aces beneath is lying in the middle of the table (see picture above), now David has to make an illusion of disappearing of three cards.

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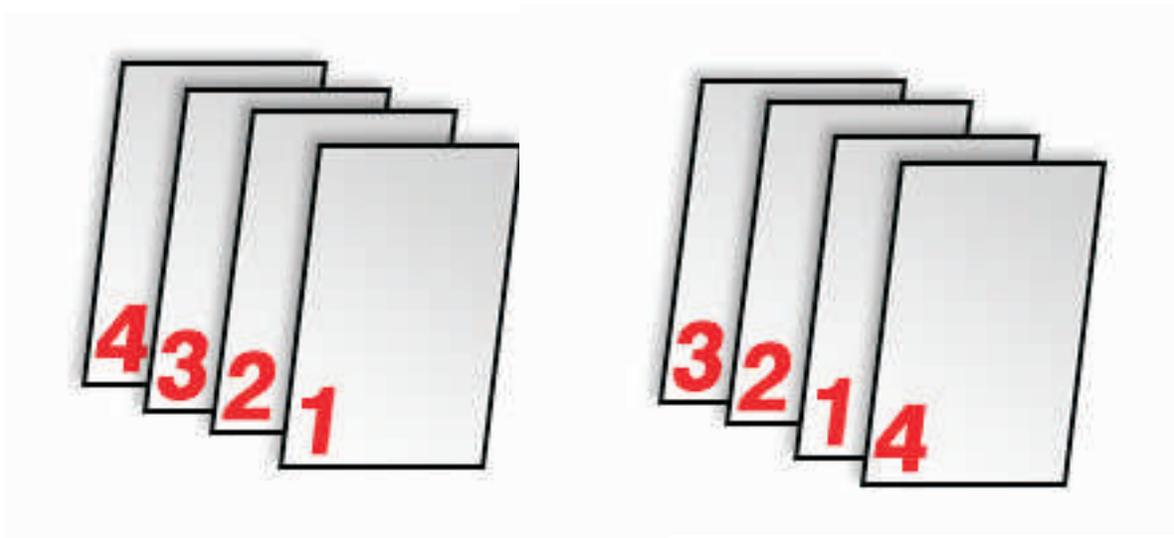
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Everything is very simple - they just stick to the next card. But different things happen to the first, the second and the third aces. Here they are.

The first disappearance is the easiest one: the ace is put on the three cards back side up; when David demonstrates the cards one after another he takes not one but two cards together: ace and nine, stuck to each other, and ace goes under nine, so we can't see it, while it seems, that David has got only one card in his hand (pic.2). So, Here is where a real craft is needed as far as it's very hard to grab two cards instead of one. The cards have not slid apart due to a special (non-sliding) substance, covering their front side.



The second disappearance is a bit harder, as far as the cards lie with their front side to the audience. But the technology stays the same. The priority task is to put the back card of the whole pack in front and cover the ace with it in the way, nobody would notice. Look at the following pictures.



On schemes 1, 2 you see how the cards are moved: 1 is the ace, which lies on top of the rest cards. 2, 3 and 4 - the rest cards. Now turn to the final page to see how exactly the sleight is done.

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When David puts his right hand to the cards (pic a), he pushes off the back card with his left hand (on the pic card #4) into the palm of his right hand.



Then he presses his right hand to the card so it (the card) would cover the ace (pic b and scheme 2).



Then he puts away his right hand and everyone can see, that the ace has disappeared, while it's just lying under queen of spades (pic c and scheme 2). After this David carefully takes off an upper card together with the ace but they seem to be as one.

The same thing happens in the third case but even more fascinating and accurately. Now David has only to roll his sleeves and slowly move aside the ace, that has been lying on the table during the whole trick and demonstrate the cards, prepared beforehand, to the audience.

If you practice it every day for a couple of months, you can do even better, than David. But you'll get only applause and your friend's approval for the demonstration of the trick, while David gets about \$200 000. ^^