

A Royal Mesh

Effect: The Jacks, Queens, and Kings magically mesh together. If you saw my YouTube video of the same name, you'd understand why some refer to me as 'Wacky Jacky'.



Remove the face cards from a deck, separate the values and arrange them in this order from the back up to the face: Jack packet – clubs, hearts, spades, diamonds. The Queen packet – diamonds, clubs, spades, hearts. The King packet – diamonds,



Pick up the Queen packet in the left hand, the King packet in the right hand. Both hands square their packets as well.



The left index (under the packet) bends slightly as it presses upward against the front right side of the bottom card, causing that card's near right side to buckle away from the other cards.



The left hand moves rightward. The King packet goes into the gap of the left hand's packet, above the buckled Queen of diamonds and below the other three Queens. To the spectators, it simply appears that you placed the Queens on top of the Kings.



The right hand takes the combined packet. The left hand picks up the Jack packet and places it on top of the right hand's packet. Keep the Jack packet close to the other as to mimic in appearance the earlier combining, only this time the Jacks are fairly placed on top.



Hold the packet in the left hand as the right hand picks up the deck and places it to the side. The reason for doing that is to provide an excuse for first assembling the packets. The right hand then returns and lowers on top of the packet, biddle style. The left pinky pulls down the near right corner of the bottom 2 cards, obtaining a break above them.



The right hand takes control of the entire packet, the thumb taking over the break.



The left thumb lowers on top of the top card (the Jack of diamonds). The left hand moves leftward, dragging the Jack of diamonds off the packet, landing into the left palm.



The left hand moves back under the right hand. The left thumb lowers onto the new top card of the right packet (the Jack of spades). The right thumb secretly releases the two cards below the break onto the top of the left hand's card. The left hand moves leftward, dragging the Jack of Spades on top of the other 3. Catch a left pinky break below this card before it has a chance to fall flush.



The left-hand moves below the right hand. The left thumb lowers on top of the top card of the right packet (Jack of Hearts). The left hand moves leftward, dragging that Jack off the right packet and onto the top of its cards. The left pinky now has a break below the Jack of hearts and spades.



The left-hand moves below the right hand. Once it underneath, the two cards above the pinky are raised up onto the bottom of the right-hand packet, the right thumb gaining control of these two cards with the rest of its packet. The left thumb lowers onto the top card of the right packet (Jack of clubs).



The left hand moves leftward, dragging the Jack of clubs off the right packet and onto the top of its packet.

The above sequence is done casually and openly as you appear to be merely peeling each jack off the packet, one-at-a-time, into the left hand. During this, keep the both packets dipped downward slightly and the right fingers and the left index along the front of their respective packets and the secret displacements will be rendered invisible.



The left-hand turns palm down and places its packet face down onto the table.



The left hand now removes the top card (Jack of diamonds) off the tabled packet, revolves it face up and places it in front of the packet.



Place the packet in the left hand, revolving it face down as well.



Spread the packet as you mention the Jacks being on the table. With the left middle and ring fingers, touch the face of the 5th card from the top (King of Hearts).



Close the spread, the left fingers riding on the face of the King of hearts, creating a gap once the spread is squared. The left pinky takes over this break as the front of the packet is pressed together, flush and square by the thumb and fingers.



The right-hand lowers onto the packet, biddle style. The left thumb lowers onto the top card. The hands separate, the right hand stripping out the 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th cards. The left hand retains the top card and the bottom 3 cards (that was below the break).



The right-hand places its cards onto the table, slightly spread (as if unintentional but uncaring). During this the left thumb pushes over the top two cards of its packet.



The left fingers square their packet, the pinky catching a break below the top two cards.



The right hand, palm up, approaches the left-hand packet. The right fingers enter the space between the 2nd and 3rd cards.



The right fingers drag the card above the break out of the right side of the packet, the right thumb then lowering onto this card for the right hand to grip it.



Once the card is free, the break is released. Both hands now revolve palm down to flash the faces of the right-hand card and the face card of the packet. Revolve both hands back palm up.



The left thumb pushes the top card off its packet and onto the table. The right-hand places its card on top of this newly tabled card.



The right hand removes the bottom card of the left hand's two cards. Revolve both hands palm down again to flash these two faces.



Revolve both hands palm up and place the left hand's card on top of the right's.



The right hand takes control of both cards as the left hand lets go and lowers onto the near left edge of the tabled pair. The right hand slides its two cards underneath them, the left hand assisting in holding the tabled pair stationary.



As an afterthought, the right fingers remove the bottom card of the packet.



This card is revolved face up and placed in front of the packet.

What's been happening in these past two pages is you've given the illusion of first separating the Queens and Kings, then displayed the four Queens, placing them onto the table, then removing the bottom Queen and turning it face up in front of their packet. During the display sequence, the spectators saw the Queen of hearts twice, but will not realize it because of the quick pace and alternating of which hand held that Queen during the moves. During this, just say "Queens" and not the suits. You will now



Pick up the remaining packet, obtaining a break below the top 2 cards as you square the packet, made easy due to their slightly spread condition when they were initially placed on the table.



Just like earlier, the right fingers drag the card that's directly above the break (King of Spades). Both hands rotate palm down to display the faces.



Both hands rotate palm up. The left thumb pushes the top card of its packet onto the table. The right-hand places its card on top of the newly tabled card.



The right finger drags the bottom card of the left hand's pair out the right side. Both hands revolve to display the faces.



The right-hand card is placed on top of the left's. Just like earlier, the right-hand gains control of the pair so the left hand can let go and lower onto the near left corner of the tabled pair.



The right hand slides its two cards below the two on the table, the left hand assisting in holding the tabled cards stationary.



The right hand removes the bottom card from the packet, revolves it face up, and places it in front of the packet.

When memorizing this trick, remember that with the Queens, after displaying the faces of the last two cards, the left hand's card is placed on top of the rights. With the Kings, the right hand's card is placed on top.

A recap of the trick so far, from the spectator's perspective: The Jacks, Queens, and Kings are placed into a stack. The deck is placed aside. The Jacks are peeled away from the packet, one-by-one, and placed into a pile on the table. A Jack is removed and placed face up in front of the packet to mark the 'Jack' pile. The Queens and Kings are separated. The four Queens are shown and placed onto the table. The bottom Queen is removed and placed face up in front of the packet to mark the 'Queen' packet. The same thing is repeated with the 'King' packet.



The left and right hands gather the three face up cards, the Jack going on the bottom, the King on top.



The left hand holds the three cards face up and fanned.



The right hand, palm downward, grasps the King and Queen.



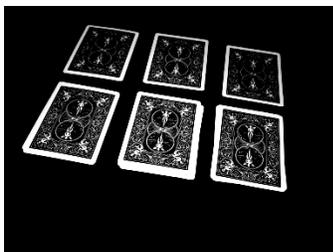
The left hand retains the Jack as the right hand moves away with the Queen and King.



Immediately, the left hand revolves palm down. At the same time, the right hand revolves palm up, its thumb pulling and the fingers pushing, which reverses the spread order of the King and Queen. This is an old monte move.



The left-hand places its card back in front of the left pile. The bottom card of the right packet is placed in front of the middle packet, the final card placed in front of the rightmost packet.



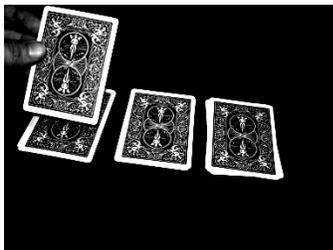
It will appear that you placed all three cards back in front of the packets from which they came. But, the King and Queen have been switched. As mentioned earlier, this is an old 3-card monte move that has been around for ages.



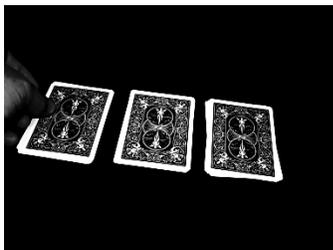
The left hand takes the single face down card that's in front of the right pile, and with help of the right hand, this card is placed below the top two cards of the rightmost packet (into the 3rd position). Make sure you don't flash the face of this card when doing this



The single card that's in front of the middle pile is grasped and placed into the middle packet below the top card (into the 2nd position from the top). During this, don't flash the face of the card.



Pick up the remaining single card, quickly flashing its face. Don't make it seem intentional when flashing it. It just happens as you move it above the left pile.



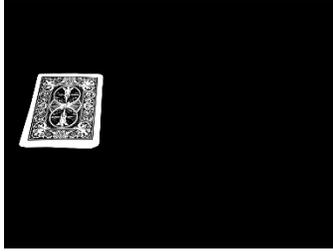
Plop this card onto the top of the leftmost pile.



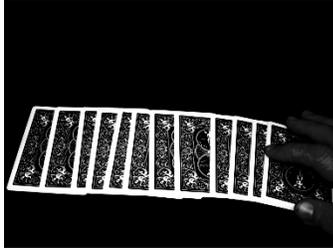
Pick up the left pile and place it on top of the middle pile as you tell the spectators that you're placing the Jacks on top of the Queens.



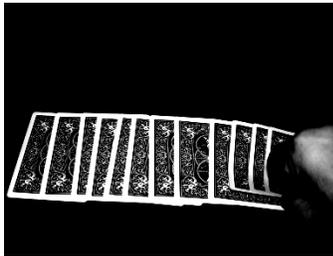
Pick up the combined packets and drop them on top of the rightmost pile as you tell the spectators that the Jacks and Queens go on top of the Kings.



Fairly, slowly, and openly slide the packet to the left.



Ribbon-spread the packet rightward, making sure every card is visible.



With the right hand, grasp the top 3 cards by placing the fingers on top, the thumb digging on the near side underneath them. Grip the three cards tightly.



By a sweeping motion, the trio of flipped face up as the right hand moves slightly forward and places them on the table. The Jack, Queen, and King of diamonds will be face up and in a spread.



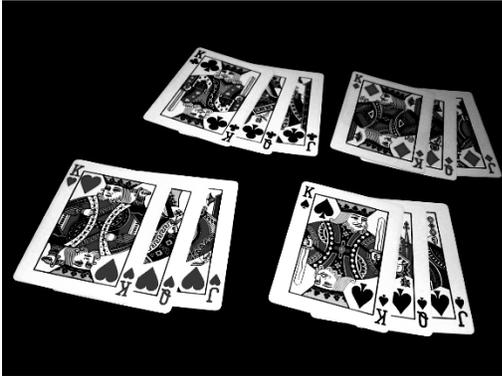
The right hand repeats the move with the next three cards of the spread. The Jack, Queen, and King of clubs are now also together!



To continue this amazing occurrence, repeat the same thing with the next three cards of the spread. All three spades are together!



Revolve the remaining three cards face up, ending with the three hearts, now together as well!



Leave the cards in this final, pretty display for the spectators to examine and ponder.

An alternate beginning:

As I mentioned earlier about the issue of, in the beginning of the trick, gathering the three piles together just to disassemble them moments later (a discouraged magic move) which may bring suspicion, here's another beginning that you might prefer.



Spread through the deck, up jogging the Jacks as you come to them.



Holding everything in the right hand, the left hand plucks out the Jacks, one-at-a-time in their required order (clubs, then hearts, then spades, then diamonds). Once all are removed, place them on the bottom (back) of the deck.



Repeat with the Queens, up jogging them and removing them in their required order (diamonds, then clubs, then spades, then hearts). Place them on the bottom of the deck (below the Jacks). Close the deck.



Repeat with the Kings, up jogging each as you come to them, then removing each, one-at-a-time, in their required order (diamonds, then spades, then clubs, then hearts). Place them on the bottom of the deck and in squaring everything, catch a pinky break above them (the kings).



Spread the deck to the Jacks, splitting it at that point, the right hand then releasing all the non-faced cards to their untimely deaths (that'll teach them for not being royalty).



Square up the 12 court cards, the left pinky still maintaining the break above the 4 kings.



The right-hand lowers onto the packet, biddle style, the fingers masking the front of the packet from view. The left ring finger moves into the break alongside the pinky.



Gripping the packet very lightly, the left ring and pinky straighten, right jogging the card above the break (Queen of diamonds).



The right pinky and thumb crotch gain control of this card at its front and back right edges.



While you're looking at the floor and mentioning the deck carnage (or wherever you may have placed it), and while the spectator's attention is diverted, the left hand moves the kings leftward until they clear the left edge of the right jugged queen.



The right pinky and thumb squeeze slightly, buckling the right jugged queen.



The Kings are secretly inserted above this queen and everything is squared.



The packet is now setup for the trick to proceed as described, starting on page XI. Don't actually spread the packet as pictured on the left (that picture's just for clarity of the instructions). Oh, and don't forget to get the break above the bottom 2 cards before proceeding on page XI.

An alternate beginning 2: The deck isn't used. Arrange the 12 cards from the face to the back: KD-KS-KC-KH-QD-QC-QS-QH-JC-JH-JS-JD. Holding the packet face up, biddle grip, peel the 4 kings, one-at-a-time, into the left hand. When the 1st queen is peeled, secretly steal all four kings below the packet, holding a thumb break between them and the packet. When the next queen is peeled, load the kings back onto the 1st peeled queen. Continue peeling the packet one card at a time. Done fluidly, this move is invisible. Continue as described on page 239.

An alternate beginning 3: Leave it to me to put the most practical beginning at the last. It is identical to the first alternate beginning (pg. 22) except when you strip out the kings, simply buckle the bottom queen (on the back of the deck) and stick the kings into the slot. There you go; simplicity is beautiful (but often concealed).

Royal Mesh Rewind

Note: Knowledge of the 'Gemini Count' is required. Sadly, tutorials of it can be found online at popular video sites (namely YouTube). I say 'sadly' as first of all, it is the creation of Bro. John Hamman (Gemini Count) and he's usually not credited for the move in the videos. Secondly, this magical classic shouldn't be available for the general public. Magic should belong to the secret society that has passion for the art and not just a curiosity. I'm therefore not going to go through the effort of teaching it here. But, if you don't know the move and plan on going there to learn it, you'll want to do it now, and while you're there, enter 'Bro. John Hamman' in the search window and watch the performances of some of his other tricks. After being very amazed, go online and find out how you can obtain a copy of his book (magic shops, e-auction sites, etc...). 'The Secrets of Bro. John Hamman' is at this time still available at many places. It will put you in card magic heaven, Hallelujah!

After the final display of 'Royal Mesh' (shown on page 22), pick up the jack/queen/king groups of 3 by closing each spread, picking one up, dropping it onto another, etc. until all are assembled in a stack. When you do this, just make sure you pick up in alternating color fashion so the packet ends up in an alternating color group fashion (where no same colored groups of 3 ends up next to each other). Say, *"I know what you're thinking. This is illogical (referring to the final ending of 'Royal Mesh'). Well magic is often illogical, another word being impossible which means it couldn't have happened. Well, let's go backwards to the beginning to rectify that."*

1. Turn the stack face down and slightly spread it on the table, then remove the top four cards together, square them up and drop them onto the table. Spread off the next four cards, square up and place to the

right of the first. Square the last 4 cards and drop them to the right of all. Say, *“Now we’re back to the three stacks.”*

2. Pick up the leftmost packet and openly transfer the top card to the bottom. Perform the first two steps of the Gemini count, placing each removed card in front (towards the spectator) the place where the packet started. Place the remaining two cards in your hands back onto the table in their originally starting location.

3. Repeat step 2. with the middle packet.

4. Repeat step 2. with the rightmost packet.

During steps 2,3, and 4 say, *“Since there are four jacks, queens, and kings and only three piles now. Each packet must have two of a certain person. Well, this one has one, two jacks, the middle packet has one, two queens, and the final packet has one, two kings. The unknowns are the remaining cards here. (pointing to the pairs that are in row closest to you)”*

5. Pick up the top card off the left far stack (closest to the spectator). It will be a queen; the spectator thinks it’s a jack. Drop it on top of the middle near stack. Pick up the top card of the far middle stack and drop it onto the near right stack. Pick up the top card off the far-right stack and drop it on the near left stack. During this say, *“So let’s place a jack on the middle two, a queen on the right two, and a king on the left two.”*

6. Repeat step 5 except go the opposite direction. That is, pick up the remaining single card in front of the right stack and drop it on top of the near middle stack, then the single middle card and drop it onto the left stack, then the remaining single card and drop it onto the right stack. During this say, *“Now we must take a king and place it in the middle stack, a queen and put her on the left stack, and a jack and place him on the left stack.”*

7. Say, *“So now we have a jack, queen, and king in every pile, but we still have 4 cards in each group which means two must be the same person, right?”* After the spectator agrees, say *“Wrong, they’re all the same!”* as you turn each packet face up and spread to conclude.