

Joker Smoker – Jack E. McCoy

When I first came up with this idea, I chose to do it over the classics sometimes. The reactions are great. If you do successfully it will become a favorite of yours as well.

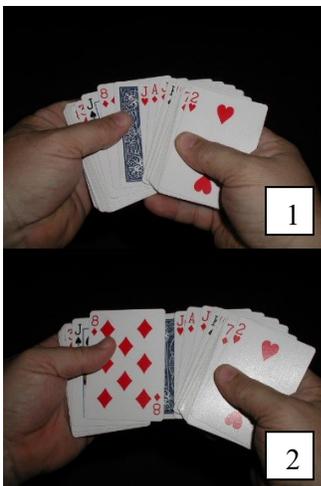
Another reason I like this trick is that it involves a triple turnover. What, you ask? I like doing triples? Why, yes I do. More magicians should be doing them. It's good for the soul. It's like when an upcoming batter swings 2 or 3 bats in the box during warmup. When it's his turn to bat, the one bat feels light as a feather, like it's nothing. The same principle can be applied to card magic. When you get used to doing triples, you first realize it's no big deal, just one more card. Second, it will make your doubles better. Trust me, it works.

Effect:

A joker is removed from the deck. A card is selected and lost in the deck. The joker is handed to the spectator (it really is the joker) who is asked to stick it in the deck, anywhere he chooses. When spread to the spot, it is seen that the spectator didn't locate his card as the magician predicted. The attempt is repeated but with a second failure. After a couple more attempts the magician gets frustrated and thumps the joker that the spectator has been holding. When turned over, it's now the selection!

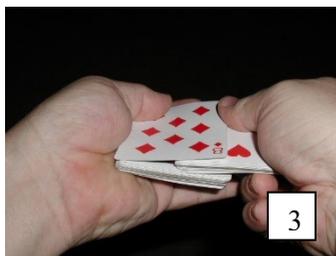
Work:

1. Remove a joker, show its identity and place it on the table face down. Spread the deck, have a card selected, returned, and then control it to the top using your preferred method.
2. Holding the deck in right hand biddle grip, obtain a thumb break below the top 2 cards. Perform a Braue reverse: The left-hand undercuts half of the deck from below, revolves it face up and places it on top. Now the left hand removes the rest of the cards below the break, revolves them face up and places them on top. The deck is now face up with a stranger card face down on the bottom and the selection face down 2nd from the bottom. Quickly spread the deck, being careful not to spread the bottom few cards. The spectator won't see their card during this, so the spread needs to be hurried and semi-sloppy so no suspicion arises. During this time, be talking about how the selection could be any card in the deck.
3. Hand the joker face down to the spectator, tell him to stick it into the face up deck anywhere he likes.

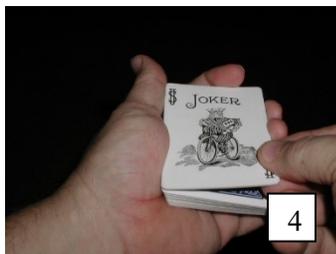


4. Spread to the face down joker. (fig.1)

5. Split the deck at the joker, taking it as well on the bottom of the right hand portion. Place the joker on the bottom of the left hand portion (fig.2). The left hand keeps its top card spread over slightly.



6. The right now shoves the rest of its cards between the left hand's top card and the rest of the deck (fig.3). This isn't a hidden move or anything. Mention the card on the top and ask if it's the selection. The spectator will say that it's not. Act surprised after the response (as if you planned on it being the selection).



7. Turn the deck face down. The joker will be showing on top. Personally, at this point, I like to fuss at the joker as if it's the one that messed up. Things are supposed to be magical here and it adds a sense of strangeness. It's fun to watch the spectators' different reactions when I do. Grasp the top 3 cards, easy do the natural break (fig.4).



8. Triple turnover as your hands move towards the spectator. Remove the top card and hand it face down to the spectator (fig.5). Remove the new top card and show it, asking if it's the selection. The reason for doing this is it nullifies the commonly known double lift. Immediately turn the deck back face up and tell him to stick his card into the deck again, only this time, just halfway and without letting go of it, "...to speed things up."

It's important to act semi-rushed beyond this point (after step 8.) as the spectator is now holding the selection and you don't want him to look at it. You also want to ensure that from this point on, he never releases it.

9. Spread the deck to the place he's poked the front half of the joker at. Separate the deck at that point, shoving the removed portion below the top card of the left portion (as in step 6.). Ask if the card on top is the selection. Once again, it's not. Continue this a couple of times more, each time acting more frustrated. Also, be paying attention to the spectator's attitude. You want him to get to the point where he's wondering how much longer until you give up and that you've messed up. At that point, mention that's what you get for trusting a joker (or some other kind of frustrated patter), thump the card in his hand and ask him to look at it. He will be very surprised when he sees that it's now his selection.

Also, you may be wondering if the spectator will become suspicious since he's not seeing his selection during the spreads. I failed to mention that the spreads should be quick and chunky as you know pretty much where the first joker was inserted. During the rest of the spreads, his card is only halfway in, so you can push off in chunks to the spot. So, the answer is, no, he won't become suspicious.

Back to the triple turnover. If you prefer a double turnover instead, at step 2, get a break under the top card only, instead of the top two cards, continue as explained only at step 8, double turnover instead of triple turning over. You also can't show the top card for a convincer as they would see the joker. That's personally why I think it's worth the extra effort.