

DECK-PENNY-DECK-NICKEL-DECK-DIME-DECK

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Effect: The spectator cuts a penny, nickel, and dime into a shuffled deck in three various places. The magician cuts to the penny, removes it from the deck and holds it to his forehead. The magician now writes something on the penny and drops it into the card case. The card that was directly below the coin is turned face up. This is repeated with the nickel and dime. The magician reminds the spectators that each time, the writing was done before each card was revealed. When the coins are dumped out of the card case, it is seen that, what the magician wrote on each coin was the identity of the card that was directly below it.

If you're suspecting the one-ahead principle, you're right. Anyone familiar with the classic occult board (aka Mental Epic) or its many different incarnations know its power. This is just a pretty way to present it. You could use tarot cards and various stylish coins for a different theme. It's pretty much limited only to your imagination.

Method 1 *(for the easy spectator)*

Props needed: Have an extra dime in your pocket with the marker.

Have the spectator shuffle the deck. In the process of quickly showing the shuffled state of the cards, glimpse or somehow obtain knowledge of the top card of the deck. Place the deck, squared, face down onto the table. Ask for the loan of a penny, nickel, and dime, placing each onto the table close to the deck. Pick up the dime, place it on top of the deck, and ask the spectator to carefully cut off about a third of the deck, with the dime still on top, and place it onto the table. Place the nickel on top of the remainder of the deck and ask the spectator to carefully cut off about a third of it, with the nickel still on top, and carefully place that portion on top of the dime and its packet that's already on the table. Place the penny on top of the remainder of the uncut deck and ask the spectator to cut off about half of it, with the penny still on top, and place it on top of the combined nickel/dime portions. Pick up the leftover cards and place them on top of all.

The situation is now that, from the top down, the deck consists of a small packet, the penny, another packet, the nickel, another packet, the dime, and another packet. You also have knowledge of the card that's directly below the dime.

Reach into your pocket and retrieve the marker, at the same time finger-palming the extra dime. Carefully cut off the cards above the penny, placing them onto the table. With the hand that's finger-palming the dime, remove the penny, hold it to your head, pretend to be really concentrating, and lower your hand to where only the back is visible. Uncap the marker and write the identity of the known card on the secret dime that's in that hand. Now, moving quickly, open the card case and place the dime into it. The penny is secretly finger palmed. (Make sure the spectators believe your writing on the penny, and act like you don't want them to see what you're writing. That kind 'of sneaky behavior makes it easier to hide the true motive as what you're doing isn't supposed to be open and visible to them and they'll go along with it). Turn the top card face up (the card that was below the penny) and place it onto the cut off portion (the packet that was above the penny). Now carefully cut off the packet that's above the nickel and place it on top of the face up card. Once again, lift the nickel off the deck, hold it to your head, concentrate, and pretend to write on it, but instead write on the penny the identity of the card that's face up. Place the penny into the card case. The spectators think you've written on the penny and nickel and placed them into the case. Actually, the dime and penny are in the case with their proper cards written on them.

Turn the new top card (that was below the nickel) face up and place it onto the combined stack (with the face up card inside). Carefully lift off the packet above the dime and drop it onto the face up card. Lift the dime, hold it to your head, concentrate, and pretend to write on it, but actually writing on the palmed

nickel, the identity of the new face up card. Place the nickel inside the card case. Turn the top card of the remaining packet (that was below the dime – the known card) face up and place it onto the combined packets/face up cards. Pick up the remaining small packet and drop it on top of the new face up card. Put the marker away, at the same time ditching the finger-palmed dime. Ribbon spread the deck, from your left to your right. This distorts the original positions of the packets and face up cards. It's not totally necessary but helps to obscure the workings. Have a spectator remove the three coins from the case and see that you successfully predicted all three cards!

Method 2 (*for the harder spectator*)

Props needed: two extra dimes.

If you think the spectator might be the type that may realize that the card below the dime is the original top card of the deck, use this variation.

At the beginning, have a dime palmed and as you're showing the shuffled state of the cards, load it about 8 or so cards from the face, also noting the card that's above it. Close the spread, and revolve leftward and face down, allowing the dime to slide and settle towards the lower right corner when the deck placed onto the table. If the deck is slightly angled, the principle like a pinky break will keep the secret dime hidden as all the sides visible to the spectator will be straight and flush. You'll be able to see the break on your side, but the spectator won't. Ask for the loan of the three coins. Ask the spectator to cut off about 3/4 of the deck. They'll usually never cut as deep as the secret dime. Place the dime at that spot, but not at the card's center, but slightly towards yourself. Tell the spectator to lower the cut off portion back down onto the dime, and lift off about half of the deck. Place the nickel there. Tell him/her to lower the half deck back down and now lift off about 1/4 of the deck. Place the penny there. Ask him/her to place the remaining portion on top of all. Remind him/her that each coin was placed in random locations, decided by him/her, of a shuffled deck.

Palm the last dime in your hand as you bring out the marker. Proceed as earlier explained, only when you get to the point where you've turned the card face up, that was below the nickel, cut off all the cards that's above the secret dime (that you placed in the deck at the beginning), with the freely cut dime still inside. As you look at the visible dime, tilt the packet slightly. The dime that's inside will secretly slide out into your hand as your other hand takes that packet and places it onto the face up card (that's on top of the reassembled deck). Ditch that dime at your earliest convenience. Proceed as previously explained with the final writing, displaying, and revealing.