Congratulations on your purchase of John Kennedy’s Mind Power Deck. Although no sleight-of-hand is needed to perform this effect, we recommend that you read the instructions thoroughly so that you fully understand the ‘system.’

EFFECT: The Magician spreads a deck of cards face up on the table and asks a spectator to look at any card. He concentrates, then slowly but surely reads the spectator’s mind and names his card! Even if several spectators look at cards simultaneously the Magician can read each person’s mind and name his card correctly every time!

EQUIPMENT: You have received the special deck: 52 playing cards, 2 Jokers (one is an Extra Joker), and 2 array cards that show the order of the cards in the deck. Most of the cards have a true and false index as shown.

The array card shows the order of the deck based on the true indexes of the cards. Notice that the eight cards without false indexes have a border around them.

If the cards are sticking together that is because the new deck needs to be “broken in.” Do this by riffling shuffling the deck several times until it spreads smoothly. Finish by putting the cards back in their proper order as shown on the array card.

PREPARATION: Remove the array cards and the Joker from the top of the deck (leave the Extra Joker on the bottom) and put them away in a safe place in case you need them later.

THE SECRET of the Mind Power Deck is that when you spread it with the Extra Joker upside down you will show 52 different playing cards (the true indexes), but when you spread it with the Extra Joker right side up you will show the same 8 cards repeated several times (the false indexes).

During your performance your audience will always see one of the false indexes, and then you will ask them a series of “yes” or “no” questions to arrive at their card. All of the questions are written within the Extra Joker’s guarantee text so you don’t have to memorize anything!

PERFORMANCE: Let’s assume that you are performing for a single spectator. Say, “Do you believe in mind reading? Although I can’t actually read your mind, I have learned to receive mental impressions from certain people under the right conditions. Allow me to demonstrate.”

Bring out the Mind Power Deck and explain, “I’m going to spread this deck out and ask you to look at any one of the cards. Don’t stare or make it obvious with your body language where you’re looking. Ready?” You have subtly implied that he look at the cards briefly, otherwise he might look too long and notice one or more duplicate cards.

Spread the cards on the table with the Extra Joker right-side up so that the entire deck of false indexes are showing. Wait a few seconds, then square them into a pile and ask, “Did you see one?” If he didn’t, explain, “I’m afraid that you might be focusing on too many cards. That would make it difficult for me to isolate your thoughts. Try to let your eyes select a single card at random.” If necessary spread the cards again briefly so he can see a card.

At this point the spectator has seen one of the false indexes, and the deck is squared on the table with only the Extra Joker showing. The last 5 lines in the guarantee text on the Extra Joker tell you what questions you will ask to arrive at his card. They read:

Ace to 7 is low, 8 to king is high.
Red, high or 3H, diamond or 10H.
Court KD or number 8D.
Black, low or JS, club or 4S.
Even 2C or odd 7C.

You will secretly read this text from left to right when questioning your spectator. To illustrate how it works, let’s assume that he is thinking of the...

EIGHT OF DIAMONDS: Say, “Please concentrate on your card. It’s a red card, isn’t it?” Your first question is only a guess, and you can guess red or black. In this case you are correct and he will answer “Yes.”

You now know it is a red card, so look at the 2nd line down that starts with ‘Red, high or 3H’ and ask, “It’s a high card, isn’t it?” He might hesitate because the eight seems like a medium value, but clarify by saying “Ace to seven being low, and eight to king being high. It’s a high card, right?” He will answer “Yes.”

The next phrase is ‘diamond or 10H’ so continue by saying, “I believe it’s a diamond, isn’t it?” He will answer “Yes.” At this point you skip to the next line that reads Court KD or number 8D. Normally you would say it’s a court card, but because he hesitated earlier, you suspect that it is the 8D (eight of diamonds).

Ask, “And it’s a number card, not a court card, right?” He will agree, and you can say confidently, “It’s the eight of diamonds, isn’t it?”

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If you were wrong and it wasn't the eight then you would know that it must be the king of diamonds. Are you beginning to see how the code on the Extra Joker works? Let’s try another scenario. Suppose he was thinking of the...

FOUR OF SPADES: Say, “Please concentrate on your card. It’s a red card, isn’t it?” He will say, “No.” Reply, “Hmmm. If I have any more difficulty, I’ll stop and try to name your card immediately.” If he answers “No” again you really will be able to name his card immediately!

Now that you know it is a black card, look at the line that starts with **Black, low or JS** Say, “But it is a low card, isn’t it?” Pause for a second, then qualify by saying, “Ace to seven being low, and eight to king being high.” He will answer “Yes.”

The next phrase is ‘club or 4S’. Say, “I believe it’s a club. Is that correct?” He will answer “No.”

Now you know his card (4S), and can finish by saying, “Wait, it’s getting clearer now. It’s the four of spades!”

**NOTES:** It is possible to have zero, one, or two “No” answers before you reveal the spectator’s card. But it seems miraculous because you always name it correctly, even when you’re having difficulty!

Always ask the questions in the proper sequence shown on the Extra Joker. The only exception is when the spectator hesitates on the low card or high card question. In these cases you would suspect that he saw the seven of clubs or eight of diamonds and therefore would switch the order of the last question. If you’re unsure about his hesitation just follow the normal order.

After several performances you might memorize the sequence and therefore won’t need to look at the Extra Joker. If this happens you can replace it with the regular Joker that you removed from the deck earlier.

The Mind Power Deck becomes even more amazing when several people look at cards simultaneously because it seems more impossible each time you reveal a spectator’s card. It is best to limit your readings to three or four spectators, though.

You can determine the color of everyone’s card at once, making your readings much more accurate. How? After you spread the deck and several people look at cards, square the cards and say, “I’m getting a strong impression of the color red. Who saw a red card?” Several people will probably raise their hands because red is chosen more often than black. Pick one of them and say, “I seem to be getting the strongest impression from you, so I’ll work with you first.” Of course you now know the color of everyone’s card. If no one saw a red card just say, “I’m sure someone saw the three of hearts. But maybe they changed their mind and looked at another card. If I have any more difficulty, though, I’ll stop and name a card immediately.”

When several people look at cards there is a chance that some of them might see the same card. If you suspect this during your questioning you can ask, “You didn’t see the same card, did you?” If he did he will truly be amazed! If not, you can use that knowledge to narrow down his selection.

Occasionally a spectator will say, “I saw more than one of the same card.” Tell him, “There are four of each card in the deck, but each has a different suit. Please concentrate on the card you saw.” At the conclusion you can spread the cards with the Joker upside-down, revealing a deck of 52 different cards!

**ALTERNATE HANDLINGS:** Ribbon spreading the deck on a table is the best way to have a card selected during your performance. But you can also fan the cards or spread them from hand to hand if a table is not available.

It is also possible to have a spectator spread through the cards himself! Do this by telling him that you will give him the deck and you want him to turn around so that no one else can see the cards, spread through them, remember one card, and then square the deck.

Demonstrate by spreading through the cards with the Extra Joker upside down so that 52 different cards are showing. When you hand him the deck the Extra Joker will be right side up so that he will see the eight repeated cards when he turns around and spreads through them.

This requires skillful spectator management and should only be attempted after you have mastered the basic handling of the Mind Power Deck.