

The Deckless Card Force

By Danny Orleans

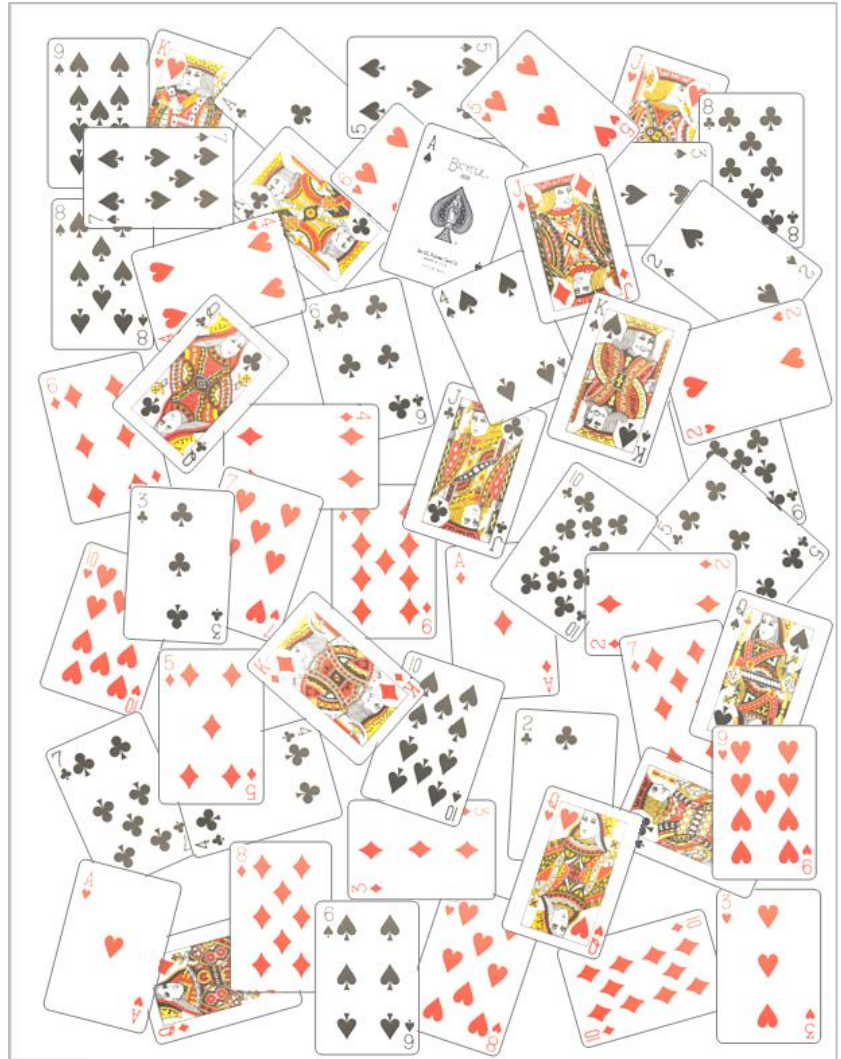


THE EFFECT: The Deckless Card Force is a utility gimmick that you can use to quickly force a card without having a spectator physically pick a card from a deck.

There are many possible applications for it that you'll read about at the end of these instructions.

BACKGROUND: I created "The Deckless Card Force" to accompany my presentation of Jerry Andrus's "Omni Deck."

In my presentation, a spectator believes they are holding a deck of cards between their hands. However, I've done a deck switch and secretly substituted the Plexiglas block and force card. They unknowingly hold the force card and block between their hands during the forcing process.



Why "The Deckless Card Force?" Because I need to use a different source for them to pick a card to match the force card on top of the Plexiglas block. And I didn't want to use a different deck of cards.

So... I created a 5 ½" x 4 ¼" piece of cardstock with all 52 cards imprinted on it. It's bigger than a standard "52 on 1 Card." I made it larger because I want the images to be big so spectators can see them when I'm performing close-up

magic. Also, I wanted to be able to stab a pen through one of the miniature card images and have the spectator still be able to see enough of the pierced image to identify it.

PREPARE:

- 1) On page 5 of these instructions, you'll find the Deckless Gimmick. Print it onto 8 ½" x 11" heavy card stock. Use any inexpensive 65 lb. or heavier weight cardstock, available at any office supply store.
- 2) ProTip: Choose your print setting quality to "BEST" to get the best image.
- 3) Trim the edges and cut into four pieces. This will provide four gimmicks. Each will measure about 4 ¼" x 5 ½".
- 4) Look at the front of the cardstock and decide which card you want to force. Pick one that is not heavily overlapped by other card images. Also, don't choose one that is on the perimeter of the paper. These are the best choices: **AS, 6C, 10S, 3C, KD, 5D, QH and JD.**
- 5) Turn the cardstock over and hold it up to the light, so you can see the location of the force card. Put a tiny pencil dot on the back of the cardstock in the center of the force card to secretly mark its location.

PERFORMANCE:

Show the 52 card images explaining that they're randomly arranged.

Turn over the cardstock and shake the card to "mix the cards" (ha ha). Hold it in your left hand, face down, parallel to the floor and proceed to have the spectator choose a card in the following manner. Here is what I say to the person who is going to make the selection:

The image of every card that's in that deck is duplicated on this piece of cardstock. I'm going to mix them up. (I turn the card face down and shake it; then I turn it face up). See how they mixed? Hard to tell, isn't it? (Ha Ha!)

With my right hand, I pick up a ballpoint pen as I turn the card face down again. I look down at the paper and hold it, so my left thumb is near the pencil dot. With my right hand, I move the pen, drawing randomly on the card as I say...

Since your hands are busy, I'll move the pen on the back of card like this and we'll pick one randomly. You just say, "Stop."

I move the pen at a relatively fast pace, making random, swirls and squiggles on the back of the cardstock. I look up at the spectator and wait for them to say STOP, timing my movements, so the pen tip is on (or near) the pencil dot when they speak.

When you practice and perform this, be sure to look at the spectator's face so you can see the movement of their mouth. That makes it easier to time the movement of the pen so it will be at the pencil dot when they say "STOP."



Immediately push the pen down and through the pencil dot. Raise the card and pen together and point the tip of the pen at their face as in the photo. Now they're able to see their selection and name the force card out loud.

TIPS:

This Timing Force is a bold move and takes a bit of practice. It should be done at relatively fast pace with a sense of randomness. The deception is heightened by the fact that you can't "see" the miniature card faces because the cardstock is facing away from you.

This is a very different card force to do and is relatively fast and oh-so-fair. I've found it useful for situations when you want a spectator's choice to match a specific card in a deck, perhaps at a specific location.

Here are a few examples of how you can use The Deckless Card Force.

- 1) **ON TOP:** Set a boxed deck of cards on the table. Have a card selected using the DCF. When the spectator opens the box, the top card matches their selection.
- 2) **IN MIDDLE:** Start as above. When they remove the cards and spread them face up, there is a reversed card in the middle of the spread. They turn it over and it matches their selection.
- 3) **CARD FROM POCKET:** Mix the cards controlling the force card to the top and put the deck in your pocket. Have a card selected using the DCF. Reach into your pocket and remove their selection!
- 4) **ACAAN:** Use the DCF for the card selection choice of an “Any Card at Any Number” trick.
- 5) **WAVELENGTH:** Are your two spectators on the same wavelength? Force a card from a deck of cards on one spectator using your favorite method. Have it placed face down on the table so no one can see. Force the same card on a different spectator using the DCF and have them name it aloud. Turn over the first selection to show they match.

See me handling the DCF at the Chicago Magic Lounge 654 Club venue. Access the one-minute video by [clicking this link](#).



© Copyright 2025 by Danny Orleans

All rights reserved worldwide. No portion of the text, photographs or illustrations in this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the written consent of the copyright holder.

