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Not stuck to the ceiling, stuck INTO the ceiling!

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The Effect: A card is selected, signed and lost in the deck. You snap a rubber band around the deck and toss the deck up into the air. The pack hits the ceiling and when it falls, the spectator's signed card is stuck in the ceiling! Not stuck to the ceiling, stuck IN the ceiling!

What you'll need: To perform this effect, you will need to make a very simple gimmicked card. You'll need some Scotch brand Magic Tape and a scissors. You will also need to find a package of magician's wax, an average sized rubber band and a magic marker.

Any deck of cards may be used to perform the effect.

Preparation: To gimmick the card, first refer to the following pictures.



figure 1

The corner of the card is cut off, and there is a hinged flap made out of tape attached to the cut edge. Take the card which you are going to modify and begin by cutting off the corner of the card so that it resembles the card in **figure one**.

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Now take a piece of Scotch Magic Tape about two inches long and attach it in the manner shown in figures two and three.

Look closely at the situation in these pictures before you begin this step. The tape is first attached to the back of the card. It is then pulled back



figure 2

just a bit and folded in half, sticky side in, to create a flap with its base centered about 1/8" in from the cut edge of the card. **Figure two** shows this situation.



figure 3

Notice in **figure three** that the tape is centered along the cut edge of the card, but the hinged area is not exactly on the edge. During performance, you will be putting a piece of magician's wax on the flap and it will actually be this piece which sticks to the ceiling. The card will then swing down, creating the illusion that it is stuck in the ceiling.

The flap is set back just a bit from the edge so that the card only swings down part way and will not swing back and forth. The card looks better sticking into the ceiling a a slight angle, and it helps to hide the gimmick.

Setup: You should begin with a rubber band around your left wrist, and a pea sized ball of wax stuck either to your skin near the rubber band, or just inside the end of your sleeve.

Find the mate of the card you've gimmicked, the card of the same value and color, but a different suit.



figure 4

For example, if your gimmick card is the nine of hearts, you need to find the nine of diamonds. Place this card on the bottom of the deck, followed by the gimmicked card as in **figure four**.

The Performance: Hold the deck face down and grip it with the first finger and thumb of the right hand. The cut end of the gimmick card should be towards you.

You are about to perform a Hindu shuffle force. The following is a short description of the Hindu shuffle force for those who are not already familiar with it.

The Hindu Force: Holding the deck at the right fingertips, the left hand moves in palm up and grasps the end of the deck with the left forefinger and thumb. You begin to pull cards off of the top of the deck in small chunks which fall into the open left palm. **Figure five** illustrates this.



figure 5

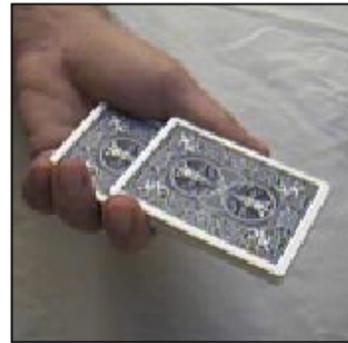


figure 6

You ask the spectator to stop you at any time and when they do, you place the cards remaining in your right hand on top of the cards in the left, jogging them forward for half the length of the deck as in **figure six**.



figure 7

Now simply rotate the left hand palm down, turning the faces of the cards up (**figure seven**). Tell the spectator to sign their selection and gesture towards the gimmicked card with your pen. You have now forced them the gimmicked card and your spectators should feel that it was a free choice.

The Signing: Before the spectator can sign the card you must cut the deck, bringing their signed card to the face. Simply change the positions of the two packets, angling the entire deck towards you while you do this so they do not see the cut on the gimmicked card.



figure 8

Once you have their card at the face of the deck, hold the deck in your left hand with your left thumb covering the cut. In this position it appears to be a whole card (**figure eight**). Be careful not to let them see the pip on the corner of the card beneath it although they can see the number since it is the same number and the same color.

Hold the pack firmly and allow the spectator to sign their name across the face of the card. Once they have signed the card, turn the pack face down and give it a single cut, losing the card in the pack. Of course you will be able to locate it easily, since the corner is cut off. Riffle up the corner of the pack until you reach the card and cut it to the top of the deck. Keep the top of the deck angled towards you so that the audience can't see the flap of tape or the cut corner of the card.

Tell the audience that the card is now lost in the deck and now you will secure it even further. Reach for the rubber band on your left wrist and as you do, pinch the wax between your fingertips. Begin to pull the rubber band off of your arm and as your hand passes over the deck, deposit the wax onto the flap. If you do this smoothly and without hesitation your audience will just assume you are fiddling with the rubber

band. Snap the rubber band around the deck from corner to corner and display it momentarily to the audience while holding the thumb lightly



figure 9

over the flap and ball of wax. **Figure nine** shows this position. Since the corner fo the card is cut off, the rubber band is only holding the gimmicked card by one corner and it should easily slip free when it hits the ceiling. Now you are ready to perform the toss to the ceiling.

The Toss: This takes some practice. If you have never done it before, it will take some time before you get the knack of it. But there is a bit of a trick to help make it easier. You want to toss the deck up so it hits flat against the ceiling so that the wax is pressed hard enough to pull the card free from the deck. When you are ready to toss it, hold the deck in a very low dealing position, kind of loosely at waist level (**figure ten**).



figure 10

Now you want to “wind up” by bending your wrist and curling your hand in towards you, and as you toss the deck upwards you extend

your fingers and straighten the wrist causing the deck to rotate, while remaining flat. The rotation should keep it level as it travels upwards so that the gimmick is pressed firmly against the ceiling when it hits. Don't spin it sharply, just a nice rotation. After a few tries you'll get it.

The Final Result: When the deck falls, their signed card remains, stuck IN the ceiling! Refer to the photo on the cover of this manuscript to see how this should look. If the card swings back and forth, you need to make the next one with the flap a little further from the edge of the card. Refer to the illustrations at the beginning of these instructions to see what I mean. This makes it so the card can only swing down part way, then it stops.

Tips: Stick it to a nice high ceiling so nobody can grab it down. Also, the higher the ceiling, the more invisible the gimmick will be. If you want to do this trick walk around, just make up a bunch of gimmicks before your show and you'll be ready for an evening of ceiling sticking!

* This effect was originally marketed in 1996 for \$15 *

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