

# MENTAL BLOCKBUSTER PREDICTION

## Juan Tamariz

In December 1980, Juan Tamariz came over to USA. One of the things which he was doing was an effect involving two pack of cards. The thing seemed to completely baffle everyone. It certainly baffled me, Fred Robinson, Albert Goshman, Roberto and all. Juan said that the principle was an old one, credited to Val Evans, using an ingeniously faked pack of cards. Tamariz has written a book on the subject, in Spanish, and has kindly given permission for this (effect number eight in the book) to be detailed here.

### EFFECT

The magician secretly reverses any card and replaces the pack in its case. A spectator is given a second pack and asked to secretly reverse any card in it.

The magician now removes his pack and shows the reversed card. The spectator then spreads his and finds the card, which he turns round. They match.

The effect is then repeated with a different card. Bear in mind that the performer always reverses his card first and always reveals it first. There are no forces and it is a different card every time.

The effect does require two faked packs, both of which are reasonably easy to manufacture. However, the elegant Tamariz handling is full of subtle throw-offs, which seem to preclude any idea of trick cards. I have no doubt that if a dealer were to market this item he would sell hundreds. It really is most clean and baffling. The freedom, with which the spectators can handle the cards seems to rule out all known kinds of possible fakery.

### 1ST DECK (SPECTATOR'S)

To make the special pack, take a normal deck of fifty-two cards and discard 8D: 8S: 8H: 2C. These cards are not used. The pack consists of 48 only.

Remove the following cards and trim them about 1mm shorter (as in a 'Svengali'). 2, 4, 6, 9, J, K of Spades, Hearts and Diamonds and the 3, 5, 7, 9, J, K of Clubs.

The remainder of the cards are left a normal length. The cards are now paired up in the following manner. The 2S is a shôrt\_card. It is paired with 3S which is a long one. Similarly 5C a short card is paired with 6C a long. In other words, the value of the long card of each pair is one higher than the short. The long card is always the face card of the pair. When all of the pairs have been assembled (Kings pair up with aces) the pack can be put together by collecting up the pairs in a random order.

Readers familiar with the "Svengali" and "Mene Tekel" packs will no doubt readily understand some of the possible uses of this one. It can be overhand and riffle shuffled in the same way as the "Svengali". It can be freely handled by spectators and yet, because of the long and short arrangement, if the cards are cut and the top or bottom one removed, a glance at the next card will instantly identify the missing one.

## 2ND DECK (PERFORMER'S)

For this particular effect, you will also need to construct a special "Brainwave" pack. Juan Tamariz's handling of this is typical of his elegantly deceptive style.

Assemble the red backed pack into pairs, which match the long and short pairs in the Val Evans pack. Rough the backs of these cards and assemble them back to back so that 2S is with 3S and 5C with 6C etc. The cards which match the "longs" in the other pack should all be face up and the "shorts" face down. Take the four odd cards, which are not in the other pack and put them on the back of the "Brainwave" so that they are the same way round as the "short" cards. Then trim a joker short and put it on the face. The order of the pack will be, reading from face to rear, Joker, 24 face up "short" cards paired with 24 face down "long" cards followed by four face up indifferent cards. Place this pack in its case "face down".

## WORKING AND PRESENTATION

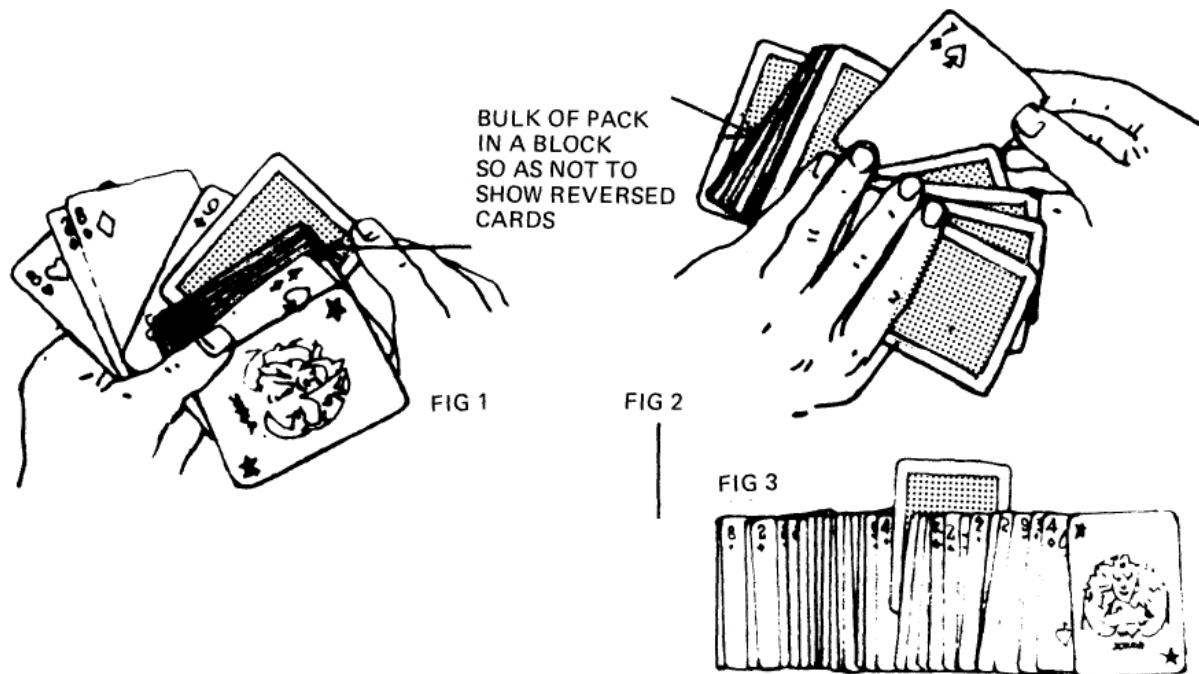
Begin by removing the "Brainwave" pack. Hold it back upwards and casually spread the top four face down cards between your hands. Care must be taken not to flash any face up ones. Square the pack and turn it face up. Fan the cards quickly. Only face up ones will be seen. Close the fan. Turn the pack back upwards and place it behind your back, saying, "I am going to reverse one, card in the centre of this pack." Pretend to do so, really altering nothing. Bring the pack out and replace it in the case "backs up". Close the card case and put it on the table, where it can be seen throughout.

Next introduce the Val Evans pack and give it a few shuffles and cuts a la Svengali. Tamariz does a tabled riffle shuffle, letting it be clearly seen that the two packets are fairly interwoven. Hand it to a spectator, face down. Tell him to place it behind his back and cut it as many times as he likes. Have him turn the pack face up, behind his back. Tell him, without looking, to take the face card off the pack, to reverse it and place it face down in the centre. Have him square up the pack, bring it out from behind his back and place it on the table. As soon as you see the face card you know the identity of the reversed one. It will be the long card of whichever pair it belongs to. In other words, one pip higher than the face card of the pack. However, as a matter of principle, it is better if you avoid looking at the pack immediately. As he brings the cards out, pick up the "Brainwave" pack and say, "I placed my card face down before you! O.K.?" As you say this, look at the spectator and glimpse the card at the same time. Continue, "I will look for my card before you look for yours."

Turn the "Brainwave" "face up" and look for the card, which matches the face card of his pack. Separate the card immediately beneath it, which will be the face down duplicate of his reversed card. Pull it halfway out of the pack, so that it is upjogged for half of its length or more. Continue spreading the cards to show that there are no others reversed. Finish up in the position shown in Fig.1. That is with the joker fanned off slightly and the four bottom cards spread but the rest of the pack in a block.

Turn the fan over to show the reversed card. It will appear to be face up in a face down pack. Actually only the backs of six cards can be seen, but provided that you do not freeze it looks as though the whole pack is fanned. (Fig.2).

Have the spectator turn his pack back upwards and search for the reversed card in it. When he finds it, it matches.



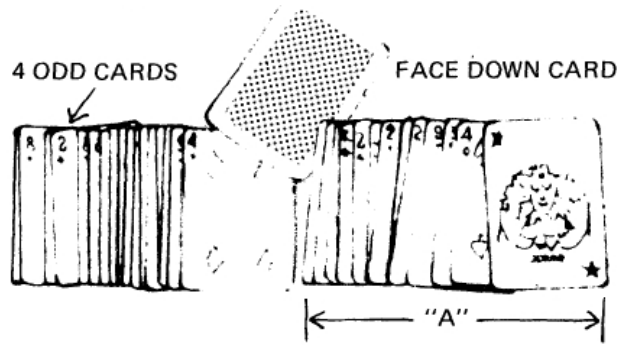
## REPEAT

It is a fairly simple matter to reset and repeat. To start with, cut the "Brainwave" at the projecting card, bringing it to the top. Turn it face down. In the process, the audience will see a face down card beneath it, thereby reinforcing the belief that only a single card is reversed. Leave that pack squared on the table for a moment.

Extract the face up card from the spectator's pack. Turn it face down and place it on top. Cut the pack and, if you care to, give it another Svengali-type shuffle. Hand this pack to a second spectator for the repeat. This should make it apparent that you do not use an accomplice.

Offer to repeat the effect. Pick up the "Brainwave" and place it behind your back. Once it is out of sight, turn the face down card, on top, face up once more. With the thumb, riffle up the pack from bottom to top until you locate the short joker. Cut the pack at this point. The joker will be on top, so move it to the bottom and you are reset. Bring out the pack and place it in the box, exactly as before. This time, in order to throw off the knowing ones, there will be a slight difference in the handling.

When the spectator has reversed a card, pushed it in the centre and brought the pack into view and laid it on the table, emphasise that you reversed your card first and that you will show it first. Ribbon spread the "Brainwave" face up. This will not be too wide a spread, just enough for you to locate the appropriate face down card and push it part way out (Fig.3). Then have the spectator spread his pack, face up, in a similar manner. Because of the uneven way that he will spread it, the pairing of the cards will not be apparent. (I can vouch for this personally, as it was not when I was fooled!) Say, "I will take out my card first" - do so, leaving it face down on the table. Ask him to draw out his card. Then say, "I will show you my card first." Do so. Have him turn over his card. They match.



When you remove your card from the "Brainwave", break the spread at that point. The position will be that shown in the precedent figure. Pick up all the cards in section "A" square them and turn them face down. Place the packet in the left hand. Now pick up the "reversed" card and place it face down on top of the cards in the left hand. Next scoop up all of the remaining cards but "accidentally" leave the bottom three behind. Square up this packet and place on top. Finally pick up the last three cards. Turn them over in a slight fan and drop them on the rest. To reset, for another performance, you simply have to go through the pack and reverse the one card, which is wrong way round.

The audience have seen a lot of backs and any idea of more than one card being reversed seems unlikely.

Tamariz says that this routine is based on ideas by Vern Chesbro and J.G. Thompson Jr.