
OPEN PREDICTION 999

The **Open Prediction** is a plot that has been explored by many card magicians. Marlo published a huge number of variations of this classic plot, mostly in the Hierophant (Issue 1). The original conditions specified by Paul Curry are largely adhered to in the handling below. It is simple, yet effective. I have also sought to minimize the amount of dealing by the spectator. Once a card has been dealt face down, I believe that the effect should be quickly brought to a conclusion. To this end, the remaining cards are immediately *spread* instead of *dealt* singly once a card has been placed face down by the spectator. This adheres to the *spirit* of the original effect and hopefully strengthens the impact. It's obviously important to avoid any hint of a switch. There is tremendous heat on the face down card. It should never leave the spectators' sight and in the handling below it does not.

EFFECT: The deck is shuffled by a spectator. The magician makes an open prediction *naming* a particular card - say the seven of spades. The magician demonstrates the procedure to be used by the spectator viz. cards are to be turned face up from the face down deck and dealt into a face up pile. The spectator is to deal one card face down at any time she chooses. The spectator begins dealing the cards face up, eventually dealing one face down. The magician now takes the remaining cards and spreads them face up. The seven of spades is not in the spread. Finally, the magician turns over the card dealt face down by the spectator. This card is the seven of spades, the open prediction.

REQUISITES: A deck of cards.

ROUTINE: Have the deck shuffled by the spectator and then hold it face down in left hand dealing position. You must now peek the bottom card. I use a peek I learned from a film of Fred Kaps. **To wit:** Begin the actions of the Mercury Card fold as taught in "M-Mail". This time the bottom card is not reversed. (See figure 1 on page 40.) Also, you don't want to put a crease in the card this time. You will find that when the outer edge has traveled about one third the length of the deck, the index of the card can be seen at the inner left corner of the deck. Once you have peeked the card, allow it to return to its normal condition. This card will be the Open Prediction. Let's say it's the seven of spades.

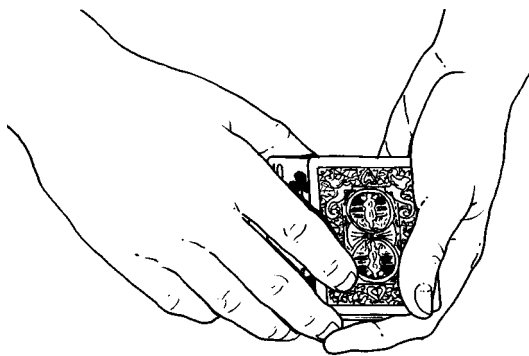
Now double cut the bottom *two* cards to the top. This puts the peeked card second from top. Say, "*I'm going to make a prediction. The seven of spades is my prediction. Just remember the seven of spades. O.K. now I'd like you to deal cards from the face down deck onto the table face up - like this.*" Suiting action to words, perform the following actions: While holding the deck in left hand dealing position, obtain a left 4th finger break under the 2nd card (7S). Now turn the top card face up and place it squared onto the face down 7S. Pick up the two cards above the break in right hand Biddle Grip (fingers in front, thumb at rear). Push the next card to the right a bit with your left thumb and use the double in the right hand to lever it face up. This card is immediately pushed to the right by the left thumb and taken on top of the double held in the right hand, sidejogged just a bit.

These three (supposedly two) cards are immediately dropped onto the table. Continue by dealing the next card face up onto the tabled group as you say, *“You understand the procedure right? Just keep dealing cards face up.”* Hand the deck to the spectator directly across from you and, just as she begins to deal say, *“At some point you will have the feeling that the next card should be dealt face down. When that happens just deal the next card face down. You can wait as long as you wish.”* This opening procedure places the “open prediction” (7S) face down underneath a few cards that have been dealt face up. Be sure that there is no flash of this face down card during this sequence. (Note: You should use the spectator directly across from you so that the orientation of the cards already dealt makes it easy for the spectator to deal cards in alignment with those already on the table. Also, it’s not necessary that the cards be kept in a perfectly aligned pile. They may be tossed onto the pile as long as a rough alignment is maintained.)

The spectator will continue dealing cards face up for awhile. Say, *“The seven of spades hasn’t been dealt yet, right?”* This reinforces the memory of the open prediction and hints at what may happen. Ultimately the spectator will deal a card face down. I’ve never had anyone go more than half way through the deck. If it looks like she is going to go past the center say something like, *“Sometime in this lifetime!”* The next move is facilitated if the tabled stack is less than 26 cards thick.

Once the spectator has dealt the face down card, say *“O.K. that’s it. Let me see the remaining cards.”* Take the undealt cards and spread them face up across the pad. Look through the spread and encourage the spectators to do the same as you say, *“I don’t see the seven of spades here either.”* The ending of the effect should be in the spectators’ minds by now. There’s only one card (or so it seems) which hasn’t been seen yet. You will make it seem that the face down card dealt by the spectator is the seven of spades as follows:

Fig. 1



Obviously there is plenty of heat on the face down card. It is important that the card never leave the spectators’ sight. **Here’s what to do:** Pick up the tabled pile with the face down card at the top and hold these cards in left hand dealing position. Buckle the bottom card with the left 1st finger and obtain a right thumb break over it. The right hand now holds the cards in a Biddle grip. You are going to remove all the face up cards between the top and bottom face down cards and immediately spread them on the table next to the other spread.

To wit: The left outer corner of the pack is positioned on the left hand as shown in **figure 1**. The left thumb contacts the top face down card as shown in the figure. Now the right hand begins to pull all the face up cards to the right. The bottom card (seven of spades) will remain in place due to the friction at the outer left corner where the card is in contact with the left hand. The left thumb can position the top X card so that it conceals the presence of the bottom card. When the face up cards clear the two face down cards, the two cards must appear as a single card on your left hand. Your left fingers and thumb can take care of any small adjustment finally obtaining perfect alignment. There is strong misdirection here too. The eye, following the larger action, will follow the face up group to the table where they are spread. The spectators’ peripheral vision will assure them that the face down card hasn’t been switched. In fact it has not been switched. However, it will appear to be the previously predicted card because the spectators are unaware of the presence of the extra card in the left hand.

Say, *“The card I predicted, the seven of spades, is not in either of these groups of cards. Of course we haven’t yet seen the card you chose to deal face down. Remember - you shuffled the cards and you stopped anywhere you wanted to.”* Slowly turn the double face up continuing to maintain perfect alignment. The seven of spades will show, confirming what they had been suspecting.

To clean up, simply drop the double onto the face of either spread and then square up the spreads continuing to keep the seven of spades at the face.

VARIATIONS: Obviously you don’t have to make an *open* prediction at the beginning. You can write a prediction on paper and have the spectator hold it. One that I am particularly fond of is this: Force the duplicate of the seven of spades from a second deck on a different spectator. Now tell the first spectator to deal the cards as usual. You instruct the second spectator to say *“stop”* when she sees the card that she selected. After the first spectator has dealt 6 or 7 cards, say, *“Oh. I forgot to tell you something. Deal a card face down any time you feel like it.”* She will generally stop within the next 5 to 10 cards. Thus you’ll have less than 20 cards to deal with. There are lot’s of possibilities. Another which I like a lot involves asking the spectator what her favorite card is. You then secretly bring this card to 2nd from top and proceed as described above. In the initial set up you show that the named card is not the top card as before. The handling is identical but the feel of what happens is different. This time the spectator somehow has found her favorite card under impossible circumstances. You never say what is going to happen. This makes it less obvious how things are going to turn out. You can adapt this “favorite card” method to a **memorized deck**, although you can’t have the spectators shuffle this time. First you make the necessary adjustment, bringing the favorite card to second from top. Then proceed as usual. The good news is that since the cards are being dealt face up, the memorized order will be preserved. A very direct approach is to have a card selected and then use a Bluff Pass to position it immediately second from top but apparently in the middle.

FINAL THOUGHTS: There are a number of ways to make the face down card seem to have been the predicted card. The method described here has a lot of merit since it’s very quick and casual, requires no fiddling around and leaves the face down card in full view all the time.

CREDITS: The “Open Prediction” plot was proposed by Paul Curry in the 1950’s. If you like this plot, check out Marlo’s extensive work in this area in Hierophant 1.