

# Blow-The-Roof-Off Magician-Fooler

## Paul Gordon

(With thanks to Mike Powers)

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Do you want a *startling magician-fooler*? Well, I'm not usually "into" devising tricks just to fool magicians (I usually gear my creations to fool and *entertain* laymen), but this effect (according to the nice letters I've been getting) is *very* puzzling; *very* magical. It all started with a lovely Mike Powers trick entitled "Forty Two" from the November 2007 issue of *The Linking Ring*. In fact, it was Matt Field who initially showed me the trick. Having seriously fooled the pants off a room-full of knowledgeable magicians with my idea, I wrote to Mike Powers about it and he kindly informed me that he very much liked my idea. "*Very cool, Paul!*" were his exact words. He gave me a little history behind the original concept, so therefore I urge you to research a copy of his booklet, *The PM Principle*. So, bearing in mind the basic concept is Mike Powers', here we go. Oh yes, Matt Field published my routine in the April 2008 issue of *The Magic Circular*. I performed this at 4F's (New York) in 2008 and in the same year, I showed a bunch of magicians (including J. C. Wagner) this effect in The Ruskin Hotel during The Blackpool Magicians convention. Their response was both puzzled and nonplussed.

Now, here's a phrase that is sure to turn some of you off reading further: You need a stooge! Have I lost you? *If so, you really are making a big mistake.* Please at least *try* this trick.

Prior to performing you need to, obviously, detail the concept to your stooge who will be, I guess, another magician. So, from a shuffled 52-card deck you need to control *any* two mates so that one is on bottom and one is 27<sup>th</sup> from face. I'll leave the methodology of that to you. I do it as I "toy" with the deck, or during a preceding effect. (See footnote for my preferred method.)

Whilst in the presence of your stooge, invite someone else to assist you. As you do this, let the stooge glimpse the bottom card of the deck (assume KC) which informs him that his two key cards are the black Kings. (To let the stooge glimpse the card, I simply "square" the deck on the table so that the face of the deck is toward the spectators.)

Set the deck face down on the table and invite the non-stooge spectator to cut off about a third of the deck. Ask him to shuffle this third and when done, peek and remember the top card of this third. Ask him then to cut off about half the remainder of the tabled two-thirds section and drop the cut-off portion onto his inhand third. Finally, the remaining tabled third is to be picked up and dropped onto the inhand two-thirds portion. (Just so you know, the first third is cut *above* the first key card and the second cut is *below* the first key card; hence the "about a third" patter.)

As you recite the above instructions, reiterate the fairness of procedure and stress that key cards are an impossibility etc., etc. *For a magician audience, really ham it up!*

Take the deck off the spectator and hand it to your stooge. (*Don't let him do any false cuts or false shuffles.* If the first spectator detects them, then the "stooge" aspect will be blown.) Ask the stooge to hold the deck *face down* and deal cards from the top forming a *face-up* pile. Ask him, at *any* stage of the dealing, to deal *any* card face down. Stress the word "any". If you wish, talk about Paul Curry's Open Prediction etc., etc. (If you don't know the concept of the OP, forget about that patter "piece.") But, here is what your stooge *has* to do:

When he commences dealing, he *mentally* counts the *first* card as 27. He then reverse counts (counts backward); 26, 25, 24, 23 etc., etc until he sees his first key card; a black King. Assume he sees it on the count of 15. He now continues dealing but doesn't count. However, when he sees the *second* key card (the other black King) he starts counting (from and *including* this King) from one; 1, 2, 3, 4 etc., etc. When he gets to 15, this is the card (the 15<sup>th</sup> card from the second key card) that he deals face down. He then continues to deal the remainder face up but doesn't need to count anymore. The stooge's job is done. The face-down card is (thanks to the principle) the first spectator's card. (Make sure, in practice, that the stooge deals fairly rhythmically so that his thinking doesn't show. But, it might be okay for him to start and stop to a certain extent because he could be "changing his mind" and hesitating. Anyway, it's up to you – and the stooge – as to how you 'play' it.)

The rest is all build-up and presentation. Here's how I patter it: "*Can I reiterate a few things. Firstly, you [addressing spec 1] cut off a packet of cards, shuffled it and glimpsed a card, which you then lost. True? You [addressing spec 2 – the stooge] then dealt through the cards and, as in Curry's yet-properly-unsolved Open Prediction, left any one face down. It really was as fair as that. True? True! Now, as the cards were dealt did you [addressing spec 1] see your card? No? Well, [addressing spec 2] can you table-spread the deck – very slowly – and reveal the card you freely left face down during your deal?*"

Let the room *explode* with complete and utter surprise! Once again, kudos (and many thanks) to Mike Powers. Thank you, Mike.



Fig. 1

*Footnote:* To set the two mates, try this: From a shuffled deck, spread the deck (face up) and locate any two mates that reside together. There usually is such a scenario. If not, under-spread (a la Hofzinser) cull one to position. Cut the deck bringing both the mates to the top. Hold the deck face down and casually, as you toy with the deck, push off five cards. Slip the top card (with left thumb) into 5<sup>th</sup> from top position. Position check: One mate is on top followed by four X cards, then the next mate and the rest of the deck. Perform a Straddle Faro (described earlier in the book) but lose one card to centre (Fig. 1) using the fingers of the left hand to drag it out of the interlaced sections. *Repeat exactly.* Then, do a third “regular” Straddle Faro Shuffle (*no losing of a card*), but ensure you cut off at least 18 or so cards to commence. Doublecut the top card to the bottom and you are now set!

Here's another thought about the dealing process. When the stooge is dealing, stop him when he (and you) see the *first* key card with this patter line: “*You can deal a card face down anytime you like. Really, you can! But, beware – I have to be in bed by midnight!*” This is both funny and gives the stooge a chance to breathe! Once you've interjected (with the above patter line), he'll know his key-number and can continue dealing until he sees the second key. In other words, you are merely “breaking up” the whole dealing procedure which is a relief to you, the audience and mostly – the stooge! When he continues to deal and sees his second key card (and starts the new count), you are nearly home and dry!

As I say, try this effect (before a friend of your fools *you* with it) and all of the *Carbon Footprints* concepts, ideas and routines.

Have fun!

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