

Subliminal

What?

Two decks of cards are used. A card is selected from deck one by a participant. He flashes it for a millisecond to a second participant. This second person then holds the performer's wrist and impossibly guides him to the exact same card in a second deck spread out randomly on the table.

How?

You need your marked deck and a second, regular deck which is set up in sequential suit order: Ace to King of Clubs, Ace to King of Hearts, Ace to King of Spades and Ace to King of Diamonds. Put a pencil dot on the corners of the Aces of Hearts, Spades and Diamonds.

To perform, bring out the two decks and place the regular deck off to one side for a moment. Open the marked deck and shuffle it. Spread it on the table and invite a participant to slide a card out. Tell them that they are to look at the card and remember it and then flash the face of it, as fast as they can, to someone else, indicating the second participant. Stress that they are to do this so fast that the second person must be sure that they didn't actually see the card. However, you claim that even though they might not think they see it, their subconscious will definitely pick it up.

As you are explaining this, casually gesture to the face down selection and get your read to identify the card, e.g. Five of Clubs.

Once the first participant has looked at and flashed the selection, have him place it face down on top of the card case.

Remove the second deck and spread the cards face down on the table. Because the deck is in a known, progressive order, it is very easy for you to identify the card that matches the selection. As you spread the cards, start to mix them into a big messy pile, Lennart Green-style. Keep track of the card you need: Clubs and Diamonds are easy as you just count from either the top or bottom as you start to swoosh the cards around. For the Hearts and Spades count down from the pencil-dotted Ace of that suit. In our example, it would be the fifth card from the top of the deck (5C). As you are further swirling and mixing the cards, simply use your fingers to keep control of the 5C and move it to a position towards the edge of the messed up pile.

There is no heat on any of this, as the audience have no idea what you are going to do next, and as far as they are concerned you have no idea what the selected card is.

Now for the revelation, using a bit of supposed subliminal contact mind-reading. Invite the second participant to take hold of your wrist. Extend your index finger and slowly move your hand over the cards, apparently allowing the participant to guide you. After several false starts, allow your finger to rest on the back of the 5C, saying that although neither of you know the position of any of the cards, they have very strongly guided you to this one.

Have the first participant turn his selection face up. Have the second participant turn over the card he just guided you to. A perfect match.