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# Breather Deck

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O ' H a r e ' s F u l l D e c k C r i m p

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What is a Breather Deck?

Take a close look at each card making up the Breather Deck. There's not a lot to see, but there's actually a very shallow bump or bulge on the back of each card.

This is a Breather Crimp, but, unlike a normal Breather Crimp (which is placed in the middle of the card), this Breather Crimp has been made towards one end of the card. Each card in the deck has been prepared in this way & is assembled with each Breather Crimp card stacked one on top of each other, nesting crimp on to crimp throughout the entire deck. This makes it a one-way deck, any card that is turned end to end can be identified, in this case the reversed card creates a small break in the deck. This allows the magi to cut to it, or, because there is now less friction between the cards, to simply give the deck a sharp tap, causing the deck to separate at the reversed card.

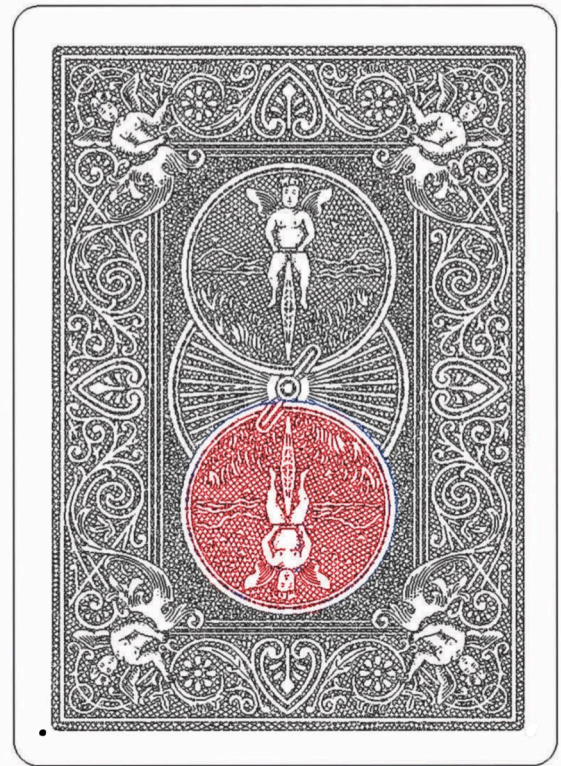


Fig.I —

If this is your first Breather Deck, we highly recommend that you take a pencil and place a dot on the back of each card at one corner. Fig.I This will allow you to visually identify reversed cards. Please note, before you do this make sure the cards are all the same direction.

The red areas on the drawings indicate the breather crimp end of the deck.

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How do I know which end of the deck is crimped?

With the deck squared face down, sweep your thumb over the back of the deck & you should be able to identify the breather crimped end by feeling a bump, or sweep your fingers over the face of the deck and you should feel an indentation.

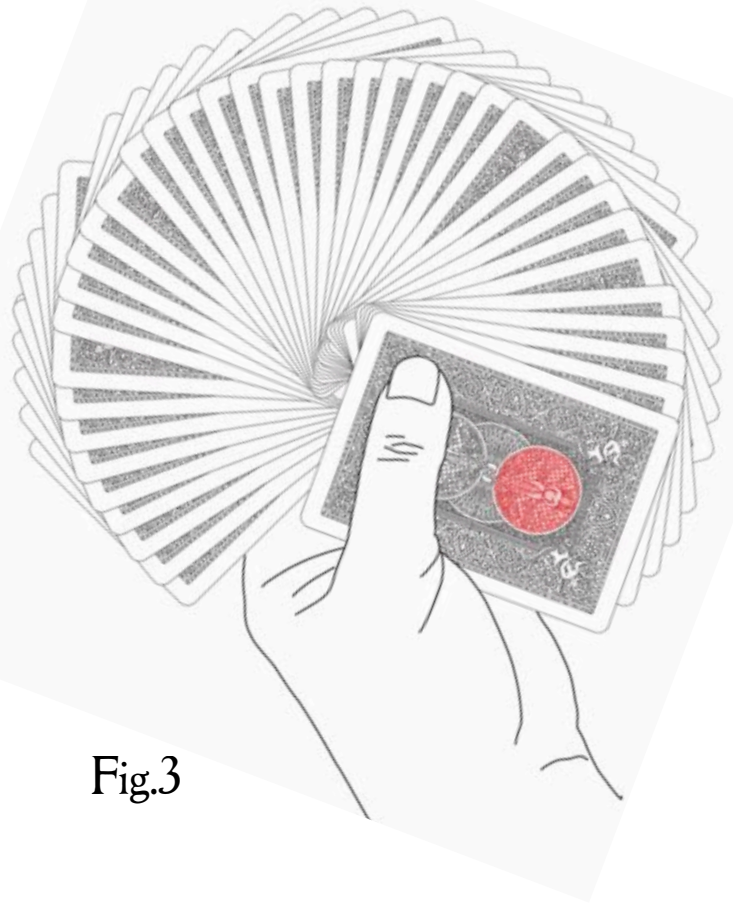


Fig.3

The crimped end of the deck is the working end of the deck - For the most part, this end of the deck will be towards yourself. Fig. 2

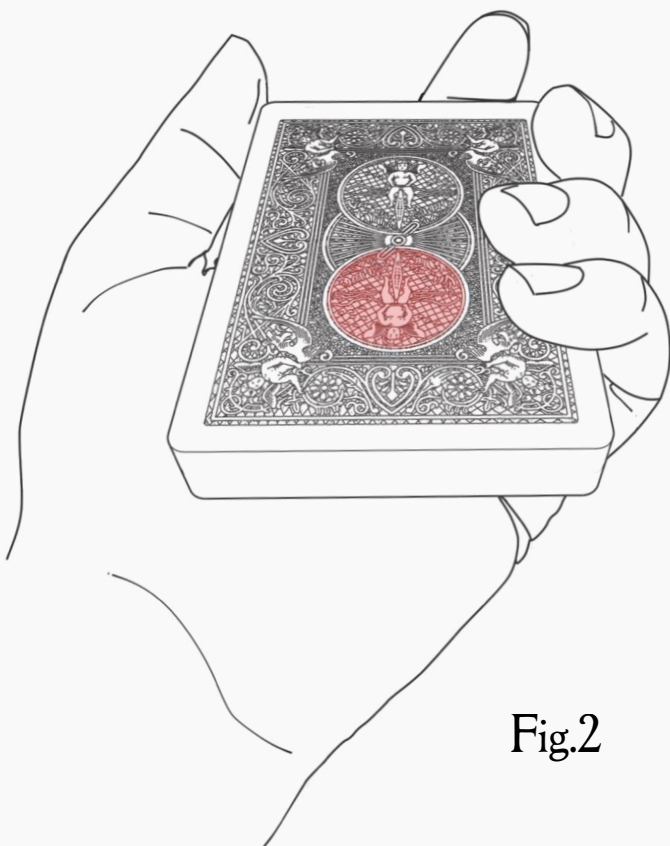


Fig.2

So how do we get the spectator to reverse their card before returning it the the deck? We don't, instead the magician secretly reverses the deck before the spectator returns their card. (This is the familiar strategy you'd also use with a stripper deck.) The simplest method to achieve this is to fan the deck in the left hand so that the crimped ends of the cards are towards the spectator. Fig.3.

Once the spectator has selected a card, the fan is closed using your free right hand, moving from the left around to the right, and squaring the deck.

This leaves the deck with the crimped end towards yourself. Fig.2

Spread the deck between your hands and when the card is returned it will now be in the opposite orientation from the rest of the deck.

Shuffle the deck losing the card. Square the deck and relax your grip. In the act of squaring the deck, look at the side edge of the deck, a small break can be seen, Fig. 4, this is your visual gauge as to the position of the reversed card.

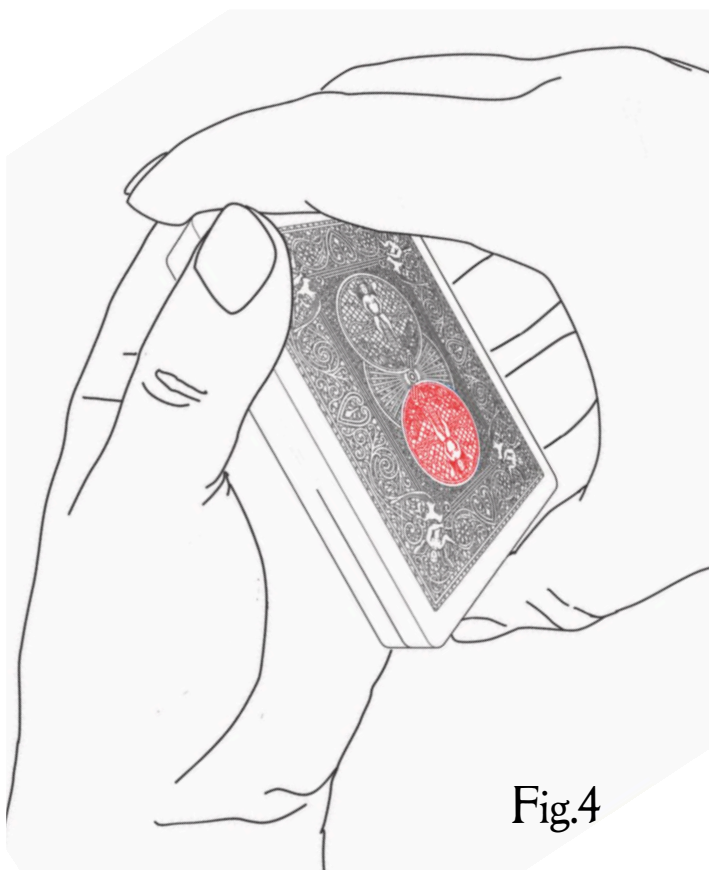


Fig.4

Cutting to a crimped card is more difficult if the crimped card is towards the top of the deck or the bottom of the deck. It's much easier to cut to the crimped card if it's around the middle. The same is true for Breather deck crimps. It's always best to manipulate the cards by shuffling or cutting, to leave the reversed card around the middle of the deck. If it's close to the top or the bottom, simply cut or shuffle the deck so the reversed card lies around the middle.

Cut to the crimp...

The following two methods look very similar, but are a little different.

The first method simply cuts to the break using the right thumb, hinging the top half above the crimp break, up against the fingers.

Fig.5. This hinging motion is important, because, by doing this you apply a small amount of downward pressure with your right fingers to the front of the top half, and this helps ensure the reversed card is



on the bottom of the top half when lifted. This method can also be used if the deck is on a table.



Fig.5

The second method is very simple too. Again, it works best if the reversed card is around the middle of the deck. The whole squared deck is held in the right hand from above at both ends, thumb at the crimped end of the deck. Slowly loosen the grip of your thumb until the bottom half, below the crimp break, is released & drops to be caught by the left hand. Again, you're left with the reversed card on the bottom of the top half. You can give the impression of a cut, if the deck is on a table. Just lift the deck a little

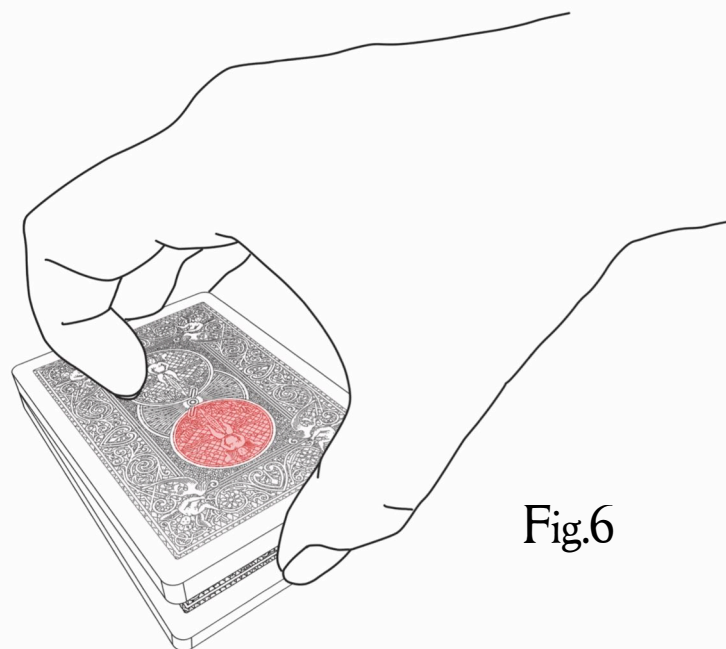


Fig.6

off the table, drop the bottom half as the hand moves away with the top half.

Look no hands...

This is a totally hands free version of the old 'salt' trick. You never touch the deck & are nowhere near it whenever the card is being selected & lost. It also uses no salt!

This is another old strategy that has previously been used with stripper decks. It uses the spectators themselves to secretly reverse a selected card.

You will need three spectators.

Give spectator 'a' the boxed deck and have him remove, shuffle and spread it

for spectator 'b' to select a card. Stay well back when this is happening, letting the spectators know that you won't touch the deck at all.

Tell spectator 'b' to keep his selection close to his chest (this stops the spectator from turning the card end to end).

Tell the spectator 'a' to hand the deck to a 3rd spectator, 'c', & have spectator 'c' spread the cards and spectator 'b' replace his selected card into the spread.

Spectator 'c' then squares & shuffles the deck, losing the card. Nothing could be more fair!

The selected card is now reversed in the deck without the magician touching the deck, or being anywhere near it.

At this point there are any number of ways to reveal the selected card, the old 'salt' trick - the deck is placed on the floor by the spectator and a small sharp kick is given to the side of the deck, by the magician, due to less friction caused by the crimp, it will cut to the selected card.

As an alternative to placing the deck on the floor, try having the spectator place the deck on a tray, which can be placed anywhere. The magi or spectator can kick or hit the edge of the tray to cause the deck to cut at the selected card, the magician never touching the deck.



At some point using a Breather deck you'll probably mix cards end to end by mistake, & be left with a mess of reversed cards & multiple breaks throughout the deck.

If you've marked the backs with a pencil dot, then you can easily visually separate the deck, & correct the decks orientation. If you haven't, how can you tell which ends are which?

Well, you could cut to all the breaks & correct the deck as you go along, or, you could take each card individually & feel with your thumb & fingers on the opposite sides of the card, for the bump and indent.

However there is another way, a peculiar property of a Breather Deck is the spooky ability of the deck to

bunch like oriented cards together, as you give the deck an overhand shuffle.

### Out of this world shuffle

The spectators shuffle the deck unknowingly separating it into red and black cards.

Prepare the deck as follows, separate the red cards from the black, then reverse the red half end to end, & riffle shuffle the two halves together. As well as a shuffled deck, you should notice that, if you relax your grip on the deck, it will expand a little because of all the crimps.

Spread the deck face up, a well mixed deck is displayed. Square the deck & overhand shuffle the deck. Keep shuffling & you'll start to notice that the breaks formed by the crimps are getting fewer and fewer. What's happening? As you shuffle the deck, the cards tend to separate at the breaks created by the crimps, the more you shuffle the more likely cards with the same direction of crimp, fall on top of each other, when this happens the break disappears.

The ideal situation is to get it down to a single break, that would be a full deck separation of red and black.

In most cases you'll get it down to three or four breaks, & a few strategic cuts will reduce it to one.

Depending on how well shuffled the deck was originally, you may have to do a dozen or so overhand shuffle run throughs, to get it into this state. The good news is, you don't have to, this works just as well if it's shuffled by the spectators.

After you have initially shown the deck to be mixed, ask a spectator to shuffle the deck, demonstrating the type of shuffle to use by performing a few overhand shuffles, before giving him the deck. Let the spectator shuffle for a few run through's and then get another spectator to shuffle in the same way. Do this until you think the deck has been shuffled enough to have separated. This reduces what would be a long shuffle procedure if done by a single person, into a demonstration of fairness. When you take the deck back quickly glimpse the side of the deck to determine how many breaks there are, if need be shuffle a few more times or

cut the deck. Sometimes a single card may be in the wrong colour, simply remove this card as you fan the deck to yourself and use any errors as the leader cards that are used in the 'Out of this World' trick.

Perform your favourite version of Paul Curry's trick.



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