

An Automatic Palm. By. Jerry O'Connell A.I.M.C

First of all, it's very important that you fully understand the following actions of picking up a deck of cards from your open left hand in a very natural way, this palm is all about picking up a deck of cards.

Removing a deck from your open hand will not have any suspicious moves that sometimes telegraph to the audience, you are palming a card, will be avoided if you follow my instructions.

These instructions describe how to palm a card automatically. Adding this to your armoury of sleights allows you to be able to perform the perfect hidden palm without any suspicious moves, this surely is a step in the right direction for any magician.

Lets start with the basics.

Hold the deck in the left hand, relaxing the fingers so that the deck lies comfortably in the open hand supported only by gravity and fully displayed for your audience to see the deck.

Lets imagine

Imagine an aeroplane approaching an airfield, it gets lined up to make a straight landing, think of the deck being the landing strip and the right hand being the aeroplane coming in level and straight.

The approach

The right hand approaches the deck as if approaching an airfield, remember? A good way of keeping the hand straight is to keep the fingers inline with the edges of the deck and not cutting across those edges.

Coming in for a straight landing means that everything must be lined up correctly.

The right hand covers and hides the whole deck from view when picked up when the alignment is correct.

Does it need fine tuning

Some fine tuning to the left and right hands positions may need adjusting before you go any further.

You may find it helpful to read the above again, try it with a deck of cards for a couple of minutes before you proceed further.

The right hand shape

The right hand must be relaxed and flat, not tilted, the right thumb points downwards. If you hold your hand in front of you and point the thumb downwards, the thumb is out of sight this is the correct approach shape for the right hand. Now pick up the deck that is laying in the left hand, the left thumb is to the side, not on top of the deck, the left fingers are away from the front edge too, remember I'm still only asking you to pick the deck up, nothing else.

Do not to look at your hands as they approach each other, the right hand glides over (not touching) the deck until the thumb hits the back then the fingers bend to grip the front edge as you pick up the deck between the thumb and fingers.

Lets recap

The R/ thumb hits the left side of the back edge of the deck first, then the fingers grip the deck and lift the deck up, off the hand, the cards must be hidden under the hand with nothing sticking out, I refer you again to the fine tuning of the hands, getting these positions and movements correct is why the palming becomes an automatic move to palm a card easily and perfectly.

If you have you mastered the pick up you are now ready to palm a card.

The left thumb slides/pushes the top card forward about 1/4 inch. (Out jogs the top card)

The left thumb is moved to the side of the deck and the fingers are away from the front edge too.

Picking up the deck you will find that the top card pivots up into your right hand, palming it without any extra actions, it looks totally natural too. Try to remember that you are only picking up a deck of cards, nothing else. If you think only about picking up the deck, the palming becomes automatic.

Helpful suggestions

Using too much thumb pressure on the cards hinders the sliding, this extra pressure is a problem that most suffer from, if you use a lighter gentle touch you will find a lot of the sleights you have problems with will benefit by using a softer touch.

Naturalness of movements, when performing sleights is what you must strive to achieve.

If you have enjoyed this paper and it has improved your palming or you feel I should change something please contact me with your thoughts.

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