

DEVICE FOR MAGIC CARD TRICK

Technical Field

Various embodiments relate to a device for magic card trick.

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Background

A spectator or preferably a group of spectators name any one of the 52 playing cards of an imaginary or real deck. The chosen card appears in a set of envelopes. Hitherto I have been producing this card from one of the two inner envelopes held in an outer envelope. Each inner

10 envelope has several loose cards in it hence it cannot be turned over to empty it. Also no envelope can be offered to the spectators for examination. The invention in UK Patent Application number 1619497.9 describes anti pinch methods which are to assist the free fall of the playing card.

However at times the card hangs in after it has been released and needs to be pulled by using finger tips. There is therefore need to address this and allow emptying the envelope by turning it over.

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Statement

The invention is defined in the independent claim. Further embodiments of the invention are defined in the dependent claims.

20 Each playing card is held in a pocket which has a release flap and an extendable flap. The release flap is at the end which opens to dispense the playing card. Linked to it and at the opposite end, e.g., the closed end, is an extendable flap. Built into the release flap is a tab which when pulled firstly disengages the playing card from the release flap and continuing the pull extends the pocket which physically pushes the playing card out thus ensuring it falls freely. The action of revealing the
25 selected card is one of emptying an envelope with the opening end facing down.

Varying number of decks of pockets / playing cards may be assembled on a stiff card provided or built into a lookalike envelope such that the spectator just sees a front face of the envelope. The lookalike envelope may dispense playing cards from one end or two opposite ends.

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Advantage

Only one card falling freely upon emptying the envelope is a much stronger magical effect as against pulling or taking it out of an envelope.

5 Brief Description of the Drawings

In the drawings, like reference characters generally refer to like parts throughout the different views. The drawings are not necessarily to scale. In the following description, various embodiments are described with reference to the following drawings, in which:

Figure 1 is the spectator's view of a lookalike inner envelope.

10 Figure 2 is the magician's view of a lookalike envelope with a sealed and an open primary flap.

Figure 3 is same as figure 2 but showing an open primary flap for the emptying mode.

Figure 4 is a schematic of how one open end pocket is made.

Figure 5 is the magician's view of a double ended lookalike envelope with closed primary flaps.

15 Figure 6 is same as figure 5 but illustrating one primary flap open showing position of the tabs when extended.

Figure 7 is the schematic of how two open ended pockets are made.

Figure 8 is a schematic end view of the assembly of the envelope of figure 3 with four playing cards.

20 Figure 9 is a schematic end view of the assembly of the envelope of figure 6 with eight playing cards.

Figure 10 is a partial view of the assembly of figure 9 with staggered playing decks.

Figure 11 is a partial view of the assembly of figure 10 in the direction of arrow B.

Figure 12 is a partial view of the closed primary flap of the envelope held kept shut by magnets.

Figure 13 is the end view of the closed primary flap of figure 12.

25 Figure 14 shows a pin, to fix the playing card deck to a stiff board, made out of drinking straw.

Figure 15 shows the fixing pins on the sides of the playing card.

Figure 16 shows cutouts in the pockets illustrated in figure 15 and a multi-piece reinforced tab.

Figure 17 shows the side flaps

30 Detailed Description

The details of the techniques disclosed herein are described by way of the following non-limiting examples and with reference to the figures.

Figure 1 shows a lookalike envelope 1 as seen by the spectators. The front face 2 may be made, for example, from an ordinary printing paper, e.g., having a weight of about 80 gm.

- 5 Figure 2 is what the magician sees of the lookalike envelope 1. It has a stiff element such as a stiff card 3, e.g., 1 mm thick similar to a hard backed envelope used for photographs. The front face paper 2 is folded and may be glued to the stiff card 3 terminating at edge 4 if no primary side flaps are used. The use of primary side flaps (to be described further below with reference to figure 17) may be optional and may depend on the number of cards in the deck. For a smaller number of cards (e.g., 13 cards or less), side flaps may be employed so that both sides - front and back - of the inner envelope, i.e., the lookalike envelope 1, may be shown as normal. Higher numbers of cards, e.g., above 13, may not require the use of side flaps, which otherwise may hinder presentation or performance of the corresponding magic trick. The envelope 1 may have a permanently sealed primary flap 5 and an openable primary flap 6, where the openable primary flap 6 is shown in its closed position in figure 2. A deck of playing cards (e.g., four playing cards) may be received by the envelope 1. The deck of playing cards, in their individual pockets (not shown in figure 2), may be provided as illustrated at 7. Tabs may be provided at the individual pockets, the number of which may correspond to the number of playing cards to be received by the envelope 1. For example, there may be four tabs 8, to release the respective secondary release flaps (see, for example, release flap 21 of figure 4 to be described below), and the tabs 8 are staggered right to left to enable release of individual cards of the deck independently. The playing card pocket may be held on to the stiff card 3 by any suitable means – see, for example, UK Patent Application number 1619497.9. In this example shown in Figure 2, pins 9 are used.
- 25 Figure 3 is same as figure 2 with its primary flap 6 in the open position. The tabs 8 may be marked to match the playing card in the pocket. In this non-limiting example they are marked AC (ace of clubs), AH (ace of hearts), AS (ace of spades) and AD (ace of diamonds). As an example, a tab 8, from its original position as shown in figure 2, may be moved to position 10 when just the release flap has been disengaged, and may be moved to position 11 when the pocket coupled to the tab 8 has been extended fully.

The technique described above can be used for any number of playing cards.

Figure 4 is the schematic of the playing card pocket. It may be made out of a strip 15, e.g., a 80 gm printing paper. Folding along lines 16 and 17 forms the extendable flap 18 of the pocket. Folding along lines 19 and 20 forms the release flap 21 of the pocket. The strip of paper 15 is long enough to leave an extension 22 at the top for fixing to the stiff card 3 and an extension at the bottom to make an integral pull tab 8. As shown, a playing card 23 may be received in or by the pocket.

As described, the lookalike envelope 1 dispenses from one end only. The playing card is shown in the portrait format. The next example describes the techniques of figure 2 applied to a look alike envelope dispensing from either end and the playing cards are in the landscape format.

The spectators' view of the lookalike envelope will be similar to that illustrated in figure 1 but to a different size. It has a front face (paper) 2a as shown in figure 1

The construction of the lookalike envelope is similar to that as described in the context of figure 2 but to a different size and with two openable primary flaps.

Figure 5 shows what the magician sees of a double ended lookalike envelope 1a. It has two primary flaps that may be opened - 6a at the top and 6b at the bottom. There is a stiff element such as a stiff card 3a and the front face 2a (see figure 1) terminating at edge 4a. It may have a deck of four playing cards towards the top shown at 25 with its four release tabs 26. A second deck, towards the bottom may also have a deck of four playing cards 27 with its release tabs 28. The double ended pockets are held on the stiff card 3a by pins 9.

Figure 6 is same as figure 5 with its primary flap 6b in the open position and as an example the secondary release flap (see, for example, release flap 43 or 46 of figure 7 to be described below) and its tab 8C (eight of clubs) may be in the position as shown when the release flap has been disengaged and tab 8D (eight of diamonds) may be as shown when the pocket has also been extended. The tabs 26 and thus the top deck is kept captive or secured by the closed primary flap 6a.

The technique described above can be used for any number of playing cards, overall, or for the top deck and/or the bottom deck.

Figure 7 is the schematic of a double ended pocket (which may be used with the envelope 1a) using a strip of paper 30. Folding along lines 31 and 32 make the extendable flap 33. Folding along lines 34 and 35 make the extendable flap 36. The strip of paper 30 is long enough to make portion 37 which has a pair of fixings 9. Folding along lines 41 and 42 makes the release flap 43. Folding along lines 44 and 45 makes the release flap 46. Flaps 33 and 43 define one pocket and flaps 36 and 46 define the second pocket. The strip 30 is long enough to make the pull tabs 26 and 28. The stagger of the tabs 8C, 8H, 8S and 8D shown in figure 6 is achieved by progressive cuts. As for example tab 8C is the full width of the pocket with no cut. Tab 8H has been cut enough, right to left, to reveal tab 8C and so on.

Figure 8 is a schematic end view of assembly of four playing cards of figure 3. The front face paper 2 extends to make the sealed primary flap 5 and opening primary flap 6 of the lookalike envelope 1. It should be appreciated that the horizontal section 50 may vary with the number of playing cards in the deck. For a small number the closed primary flap 5 may sit at an angle as shown in figure 13. Of the four release tabs 8, the tab marked AD is closest to the stiff board 3 and the other tabs 8 rising in proportion to the thickness of playing cards and pockets. This along with the stagger explained in the context of figures 2 and 7 makes each tab 8 easily accessible. The pockets are assembled such that the playing cards are closer to the stiff board 3. The advantage is that, when extended, the pocket moves away from the falling playing card to prevent any hindrance to its fall. Also the weight of the deck above is taken away from the falling playing card by the extended pocket as shown at 67.

Figure 9 is a schematic end view of the assembly of eight cards of figure 6. The front face paper 2a extending to make the primary flaps 6a and 6b of the double ended lookalike envelope 1a are shown. The release tabs 26 and 28 of the playing card decks 25 and 27 respectively are assembled in the same format relative to the stiff board 3a as described in the context of figure 8. Playing cards 23 are shown.

Figure 10 shows the bottom half of the assembly illustrated in figure 9 with a difference in that the deck 27 has been split into decks 27a and 27b. The deck 27b is staggered downwards relative to the deck 27a. This is to reduce the overall thickness of the assembly as measured between arrows A of

figure 9. This becomes more important when assembling a large number of cards say 13, 26 or even 52 in the lookalike envelope 1a. This thickness can be reduced further by using thinner playing cards and/or thinner paper, for example, 40 gm or even tissue papers (e.g., (thin) decorative or gift wrap paper generally used for packing delicate items).

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Figure 11 shows the position of the release tabs 28a and 28b when viewed in the direction of arrow B of figure 10 and is also as seen by the magician. It shows small magnets 51 fixed or glued to the stiff board 3a and (magnetic) metal shims 52 attached to the primary flap 6b. These are used to hold the flaps 6a and/or 6b in the closed position. This may prevent accidental drop of the playing cards when handling the lookalike envelope 1a before releasing it. It may also prevent the top deck 25 from rolling over downwards when the playing card is being released from the lower deck 27. It should be appreciated that the magnets 51 and the metal shims 52 may also be provided for the envelope 1 (see figure 2) for holding the flap 6 in the closed position.

15 The magnetic force to keep the primary flap closed is a balance between accidental opening and excessive pull required to open it. The metallic shim 52 on the primary flap 6b may be set slightly inwards from its edges such that it is not visible to the spectators when the flap 6b is open. The amount of contact, of the metallic shim 52, with the magnet 51 may be adjusted to get the correct force. See figure 12 where just the tip of the metallic shim 52 is touching the magnet 51.

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Figure 13 shows what the closed primary flap 6b may look like. The angular attitude or orientation of the flap 6b may depend on how many playing cards are in the deck. It shows the stiff board 3a with the magnet 51 and the metallic shim 52. Depending on the height of the playing cards deck and the thickness of the magnet 51 used, a packer or spacer 53 may be provided. The release tabs 28a and 28b are shown under the closed primary flap 6b.

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Figure 14 shows a pin which may be used to fix / hang the playing card deck to the stiff board 3 or 3a. It may be made out of a drinking straw. A length of straw 60 is first cut. Then cuts 61 are made axially along the straw 60 leaving an uncut length approximately equal to the thickness of the deck as shown between arrows AA of figure 9. The cut parts 62 are then splayed open as shown by structure 64. The splayed end is fixed to the stiff board 3 or 3a such that it is covered by front paper 2 or 2a of the lookalike envelope 1, 1a so that it is not visible to the spectators. The other end may

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be fixed to the top most pocket as shown at 65 and 66 in figure 10. The advantage of using a straw is that it may reduce bulk and may be easier to conceal from the spectator. Also the smooth surface of the straw may allow free movement of pockets on the pins.

- 5 Figure 15 shows fixing pins 9 attached to a stiff card (e.g., stiff card 3 or 3a) on the sides of the playing card rather than above it. This gives an overall shorter lookalike envelope 70. Fixed primary flap 5 is shown partially cut away in figure 15 to show the pin 9 on one side of the envelope 70. There may be two playing card decks 61, 62 with their respective tabs 65, 66. There may be two more decks 63, 64 with their respective tabs 67, 68. While the decks 63, 64 are shown staggered
10 relative to the decks 61, 62, they may be in alignment on top of each other. As shown in figure 15, the pins 9 may be provided on the sides of decks 61, 62. Part of the primary flap 6 is shown partially cut away in figure 15 to show the tabs 65, 66, 67, 68. The extreme ends of the primary flap 6 may be held down by magnets (not shown).
- 15 Figure 16 shows a part of a pocket of stack 7 and tab 8 of figure 3. If the pocket is made from a very thin paper it may become necessary to reinforce the tab 8 with another layer of thicker paper or even thin plastic sheet in order to prevent it tearing when pulled. A reinforcement 71 may be fixed, for example, by gluing. A slot 72 may be cut to allow the extending flap 18 to lie within the pins 9. Alternatively, the whole pocket(s) may be made narrower to a T shape. The figure shows the fold
20 lines 16, 17, 19 and 20 similar to that of figure 4 and the playing card 23 for reference.

Referring to figure 17 the lookalike envelope 80 has the front face 2, or 2a similar to figure 1. The back of the lookalike envelope is shown at 81. It is the magician's view but may also be shown to the spectator. The primary flaps include the top flap 5, or 6a, the bottom flap 6, or 6b and the two
25 side flaps 6s. The primary side flaps 6s are made such that all release tabs are visible when the primary flap at the playing card dispensing end is opened, e.g., in figure 17, when the flap 6, or 6b is opened, tabs 65, 66 are fully accessible. The lengths of the primary top flap 5 or 6a, and the bottom flap 6, or 6b may be made to suit the number of playing cards in the decks, the number of decks and the stagger of the decks such that the bottom flap 6 or 6b overlaps the top flap 5 or 6a. All flaps
30 when open are shown at 82. This may be the shape of the cut paper to make the front face 2 or 2a and back 81 of the lookalike envelope 80. The flaps 5, 6a, 6s, 6s, 6, 6b are labeled in figure 17. Decks 61, 62 with their respective tabs 65, 66, similar to figure 15, are shown for reference. The side

flaps 62 may be cut along line 83 to form edges (not shown), similar to the edge 4, 4a of figures 2, 5. The top flap 5, or 6a may be held shut with suitable means, e.g. magnets, attached on top of the side flaps 6s (e.g., at positions traced by dashed circles 84) in a similar manner as described with reference to figures 11, 12.

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In various embodiments, it should be appreciated that the release flap and the corresponding tab may be made as a single part or made of multiple or separate parts.

Further, it should be appreciated that the playing cards may be of any size and/or thickness.

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In various embodiment, the stack/deck of playing cards to be employed may be of any number of cards, for example, a plurality of cards, e.g., from 2 to 54 (which may include Joker cards).

CLAIMS

Claim 1

A device that has a front face which looks like an envelope and a back face having top and bottom
5 flaps called primary flaps, and optionally side flaps, wherein the primary flaps are configured to be sealed or kept closed such that when opened reveal stack or stacks of a variable number of pockets, that are aligned or staggered and attached to a stiff element, each pocket configured to hold one or more objects either in one open ended or two open ended extendable pockets, and each pocket being defined by a set of secondary flaps namely a release flap at the dispensing end, with its
10 corresponding release tab, the release flap and the corresponding release tab defining a release means, connected to an extending flap at the opposite end whereby each set of secondary flaps is adapted to prevent their contents from falling out when the open ends of the pockets are facing downward even if the primary flap is open till the release means are operated, which is facilitated by the release tabs that are staggered relative to one another, one for each pocket, and, wherein, for each
15 pocket, the pocket is configured to release its contents in response to an action of release comprising pulling the release tab of the relevant pre-selected pocket which disengages it from its contents and continuing the pull extends the pocket to push the contents out letting them fall freely.

Claim 2

20 A device according to Claim 1, characterised in that the one or more objects are playing cards.

Claim 3

A device according to Claim 1 or 2, characterised in that the pockets with one end opening or two end opening are made from paper.

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Claim 4

A device according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that the front face and the primary flaps, are made from paper.

30 Claim 5

A device according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, characterised in that the stiff element is a stiff card.

Claim 6

A device according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, characterised in that the stack or stacks of a variable number of pockets are configured to hold a plurality of cards.

5 Claim 7

A device according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, characterised in that the release flap and its release tab are made as a single part.

Claim 8

10 A device according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, characterised in that the release flap and its release tab are made of multiple parts.

Claim 9

15 A device according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, characterised in that the one or more objects can be mounted in portrait or landscape format.

Claim 10

A device according to any one of Claims 1 to 9, characterised in that the device further comprises magnets on the stiff element, and metal shims on an openable primary flap of the primary flaps, for
20 closing the openable primary flap.

Claim 11

A device according to any one of Claims 1 to 10, characterised in that the device further comprises at least one pin to attach the stack or stacks of a variable number of pockets to the stiff element, the
25 at least one pin being made from a drinking straw and its attachment is concealed by the front face of the lookalike envelope.

Claim 12

A device according to any one of Claims 1 to 11, characterised in that the pockets are mounted on
30 the stiff element such that when releasing the playing card, the weight of the playing cards above is taken away, from the released playing card.

Claim 13

A device according to any one of Claims 1 to 12, characterised in that the lookalike envelope comprises the side flaps.