Find the Card

THE TRICK: The magician picks 21 cards from a pack of 52, and deals them out face up into three packs of seven cards each. While the magician’s back is turned, a volunteer chooses any one of these cards, shows it to the group and returns it anywhere in the same pile from which it came. The magician turns around and asks the volunteer which pack the chosen card is in. He then puts the three packs together and deals them again into three piles. He deals one card at a time to each pile until all 21 cards are dealt. Again, he asks the player who picked the original card to show him in which of the three piles his card appears. He puts the cards together, deals three piles again—one card at a time to each pile—and asks the player a last time which pile his card is in. This time, the magician points to the chosen card.

THE SECRET: Each time, before dealing out the cards, the magician puts the pile in which the chosen card appears between the other two piles. In this manner, after he has dealt out the piles three times, the card will rum out to be the middle card in whichever pile the volunteer points to as the correct one. All the magician has to do is go through this pile and hold up the fourth card.