Card Tricks

Everyone enjoys being baffled by tricks with playing cards. Here are several such tricks that can be performed without any particular sleight-of-hand ability. They should be performed with an air of professionalism, however, and the magician should learn to shuffle and deal cards smoothly. A complete deck of cards is needed for each trick.

The One-Way Pack

THE TRICK: The magician asks a volunteer to pick a card, look at it, and then return it to the deck. He then tells the group that he can identify the card chosen by the volunteer.

THE SECRET: The trick is based on the fact that some decks of cards have a one-way design on their backs—a picture of a flower or a landscape, etc.—instead of the usual symmetrical pattern. Using such a one-way deck, the magician first arranges the cards so that the pictures on their backs all face in the same direction. He then shuffles the cards without changing the direction and holds them out fan-like to any member of the audience. After a volunteer has picked a card, the magician unobtrusively turns the pack around so that when the card is replaced in the deck its picture on the back will be facing in the opposite direction from the others. Again the magician shuffles the deck and then, with a great show of concentration, searches for the secret card. It is easy to find, for the picture on its back will be facing one way and all the rest of the cards will face the other.