Reverse the Card

THE TRICK: A member of the audience picks a card from a deck held out fan-shaped by the magician. The volunteer returns the card to any spot in the deck, after which the magician looks through the deck and quickly identifies the mystery card.

THE SECRET: The deck is rigged beforehand. The magician turns the bottom card so it is face up and all the others are face down. When he fans out the deck, he conceals the bottom card in his palm. After the volunteer selects a card, the magician quietly turns the deck over so that the bottom card is now on top, face down, all the others being face up. When the volunteer returns the card to the deck the only card he can see is the one on top and he places the mystery card back in the deck face down, for he thinks all the cards face in that direction. With flourishes of his hand and a constant patter of talk about the amazing nature of the trick, the magician looks through the deck, knowing that the first card he comes to—after the top card—that faces in the opposite direction from the others will be the mystery card.