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The Roberto Giobbi Secret Letter # 5

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A message from Roberto Giobbi.

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## Roberto Giobbi's Secret Newsletter



### Secret Letter #5

Hello, dear magic enthusiast!

You haven't heard from me in a while, simply because we keep receiving too many unnecessary "newsletters", and I do not want to add to that too much. Besides, I think it is one of the big frauds of our time to believe that one could get better at something by buying things. In my opinion one gets better by doing something differently. This is what my messages to you are about.

In the past few months I have travelled extensively, among others a full month to China, been at conventions, given several lectures and held a few full-day masterclasses with new topics. On these travels I have met many of you, had fruitful discussions and was asked many questions. The purpose of my messages to you, which I've renamed "Secret Letters", is to address some of these questions to the best of my knowledge. And if there happens to be a new product I'll let you know about this, too. But remember that you can't buy excellence, you have to work for it. I've dedicated a part of my life to creating the necessary tools for it.

On to this month's topic:

#### Ask Roberto: Cull

One of the technical questions I'm asked most is "The Spread Cull", which you can find in *Card College 1*, p. 185. If you don't have the book at hand, [click here for a PDF](#) (please do not put on Internet). This is only a small part of a whole chapter, of course.

If you experience difficulties with culling one or several cards, please reread the

description, which is very accurate, obviously with cards in hands. There is everything you need to know. But let me stress two points (I now refer exactly to the description on p. 187):

1. Before pulling the AD under the spread, make sure it has been *covered by the card on its right*, i.e. immediately above it, in the illustration the 2C. This will avoid that the AD suddenly "vanishes" when the right fingers pull it under the spread in just a moment .
2. The cull is a combination of *two movements*: one, the pulling of the AD to the right and under the spread by the fingers of the right hand, that's the obvious movement. Two, the movement of the left hand, and this is less obvious, which continues the spreading action, and in so doing, pulls all the cards to the left of the 2C *to its left*. So the cull is a combination of *pulling-under* and *pulling-free*, confirmed by the "click", which should be felt but not be heard. It feels a bit like an elastic, which is pulled and then released.
3. *To cull several cards* proceed exactly in the same way: simply ignore the first card already under the spread, and then cull the next card *behind* the first, i.e. under the first card, *not* between the spread and the first card.
4. For those of you who find it difficult to learn from reading, which is a mere question of concentration and patience, qualities easy to lose in our visual-speed-time, watch the video. The complete *Card College Volumes 1&2* are on my *Card College 1&2 - Personal Instruction*. The complete 23 lessons, total 8 hours and previously on 4 DVDs, are now available for download, *but you can also buy every lesson individually for a mere \$5 per lesson*. To get "[The Spread Cull](#)" [click here](#). *Everyone* can learn it from this video, and in the same lesson (Lesson 18) I also discuss the very useful Spread Force, as well as two reputation-making tricks (sorry this sounds like a Penguin mail :-).

The Spread Cull is a truly polyvalent technique, which should be in your repertoire if you want to perform artistic card magic. You can use it to cull, stack, control, force, switch, reorder, place cards etc., and it is one of the best techniques to use when you need an out. If you already do the Cull, please make sure you do it well enough, and if you don't do it, learn it next. In any case: check-out your Cull NOW.

In my next *Secret Letter* I will answer more questions about techniques ("What is the Logic of the Double Undercut") and how to learn ("How to Take Notes & Store Them"). You can also send in your own question, and I'll try to answer it at some point. Meanwhile let me remind you that I have answered 52 questions in [Ask Roberto](#), available both as an e-book and a printed book. I recommend the e-book, which is very comfortable to read on a tablet, one question a week, for a full year.

## Additional Information

Besides this month's topic, here are a few bits of information you might also be interested in:

### Interview With Roberto Giobbi

If you're interested to know a little more about myself and some of my thoughts on various issues of magic, here is a lengthy interview conducted by *BoardGameGeek* reviewer *EndersGame*. I suggest you use "Pocket" app or "Evernote Web Clipper" to download it and read it offline. In such cases I convert the text into a *PDF*, which I can read anytime on the plane or in the train, and also *annotate* it or *extract* relevant text passage (this is already a preview on the subject of "How to Take Notes", which we'll deal with in an upcoming *Secret Letter*). To get to the interview [CLICK HERE](#).

Wer deutsch versteht, findet hier den zweiten Teil eines Interviews, das Semjon Sidanov mit mir geführt hat und das etlichen Usern seines YouTube-Kanals gut gefallen hat. [HIER GEHT'S ZUM INTERVIEW](#).

### Self-working Card Tricks

By the same *BoardGameGeek* reviewer *EndersGame* you will find an essay about self-working card tricks, which goes into great detail and has many examples you'll be able to immediately use. To get to the essay on self-working card tricks [CLICK HERE](#).

And finally, again from the prolific *EndersGame*, comes an article about what he finds the Ten Best Self-working Card Tricks, [CLICK HERE](#) to find out.

### Card College Facebook Group

Reader Patrick Humeniuk from Canada wrote in to let me know that he and a group of friends have created what they've called "The Sunday Card College" on Facebook. Here is the link, if you want to see what this is about, and if you want to join: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2290954474354088/> It's obviously an excellent idea, as similarly minded people can meet and motivate each other in the serious and dedicated study of card magic. See my deliberations above!

### Want a book signed to you personally?

When you order a book or DVD from me, you can ask it to be signed to your name, but *you must mention this in the "comment" field of the order form, please*. I do not automatically sign, as I never know who eventually gets the book/DVD.

### Table of Content for Card College 1&2 - Personal Instruction

I'm glad to see that the 4-DVD-Set [Card College 1&2 - Personal Instruction](#), which is now available as a download at a fraction of the original price, seems to be very

popular and helps many to get on track when it comes to card magic. The 23 lessons are self-contained and reflect [Card College volumes 1&2](#), but they are also a great complement to the books: the book gives far more details that can be put on a video, but the video shows you that what's in the book is feasible, and that's the motivational kick many need. A friend from Australia, aka EndersGame, kindly sent in a table of contents, which many of you will find useful. The first 2 pages are a pure table of contents, followed by a detailed commented table of content. This is an incredible piece of work, and I cannot thank EndersGame enough. To download the [PDF CLICK HERE](#).

### **Table of Content for Card Magic Masterclass**

The 5-DVD-Set *Card Magic Masterclass* is the follow-up to [Card College 1&2 - Personal Instruction](#), and for those who already have it, as well as for those who want to know what is in it, [here you can download the Table of Content as a PDF](#).

### **Personal Coaching Live or via Skype**

If you are interested to receive personal advice on anything related to your magic, or if you merely want to ask me questions or chat with me, you can take personal coaching lessons at my studio in Muttenz, Switzerland, or via FaceTime/Skype. For details contact me [HERE](#).

## **Coming soon...**

### **Card College Playing Cards**

My Chinese publisher TCC will soon be releasing a red- and a blue-backed deck of *Card College Playing Cards*. The cards are printed by USPPC on their premium stock, not too thin, not too thick, just right, cut top-down and faro out of the box, superb. At the same time they will make a limited *Collector's Set* available. I've seen the prototypes on my visit at the TCC location in Shengzhen and I can only say that I've never seen anything like it before: in three colors, tucked in a 3-movement-pop-up card case with the three decks in an incredibly beautiful wooden drawer case. I will keep you informed as soon as they are available. If you are on this "Magic Letter" you'll be the first to know.

### **"The Red Card" and "Thought Card to Envelope and Wallet"**

These are two products/downloads in the pipeline of *Penguin Magic*, who is the publisher of most of my books after taking over the business from Stephen Minch's *Hermetic Press*. These are two pieces I fooled almost everyone with over the years and which I've kept to myself. If you've seen me at a convention, or participated at a lecture or masterclass of mine, you know what I mean. One of the items comes with a custom-made Humber Wallet, which will be a great additional value. I'll keep you

informed.

## The Missing Link

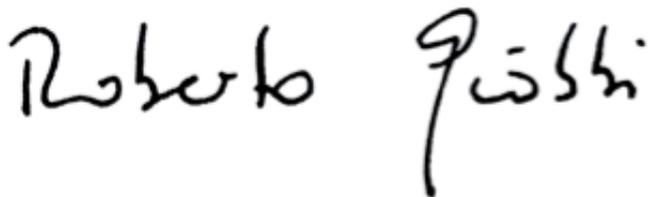
Under this heading I propose one unusual web-link, which you'll hopefully find inspiring, and if nothing else simply amusing. This one is about Coin Stacking. We know Dice Stacking, but have you ever heard of Coin Stacking? Click here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ze9KL7xE4qE>

With a mini-projector and an empty wall or similar, you can show the clip, and then use it as a Prologue and presentational idea for a trick. This is just one of the many practical suggestions you'll find in the *Agenda* books; for details on this particular idea see the entry "Film Clip Prologue" for February 20 in my *Hidden Agenda* – to a performing magician, this alone is worth many times the price of the book.

### Let your friends know, please

If you believe that this newsletter (and those before) could be of interest to your friends, please forward this *Secret Letter* to them. To get it directly, they simply have to want to sign up for it [HERE](#).

More on the next occasion, there are several questions of yours waiting to be answered - take care!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roberto Giobbi". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each name being significantly larger and more stylized than the others.

Roberto Giobbi

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