

December 27 - To Justify a Packet

“Packet tricks” have a tradition in the world of magic. When I was a teenager, in the 1970s, grown-up men went to magic club meetings carrying a purse with a wallet that had many compartments, each fitted with a “packet trick” of some sort. They would then perform one trick after the other, each with a different packet. Many of these tricks were terrible, some good and very few outstanding. The subject warrants a book, so I will limit this entry to answering the question of how to use a limited number of cards in a logical way.

Thinnest Deck in the World

This is an idea by Jim Steinmeyer (see his “Thinnest Deck in the World”). The packet needed (“thinnest deck”) is carried in an equally thin card case. With a little bricolage you can transform any ordinary card case into a “thin” card case.

Waste Card Collection

Explain that you used to throw away the Jokers, but have now found an interesting use for them. Can also be applied to publicity cards, guarantee cards, rank-of-hands cards, etc.

Magic Club Credential Trick

Have a simple wallet that when opened shows some kind of badge à la police-FBI badge (Casino, Magic Club, etc.). In the compartment next to it is the card packet. Explain that in order to verify one’s identity, every magician needs to perform a trick. Now do the trick with the packet as your “credential.”

Convention Badge

Here is an idea by craftsman extraordinaire Joan Font from Barcelona. The packet is in a transparent bag, or in a plastic folder, which hangs by a cord around your neck. It can be carried as an “amulet,” or as a “convention badge,” etc.

The Letter

The packet is in an envelope, maybe together with a letter, which might play a role in the respective trick. Or maybe the “letter” is an instruction sheet from an old catalogue?

Come up with ten original ideas of how to carry a packet trick and thus justify its use.