
NEW JAZZ

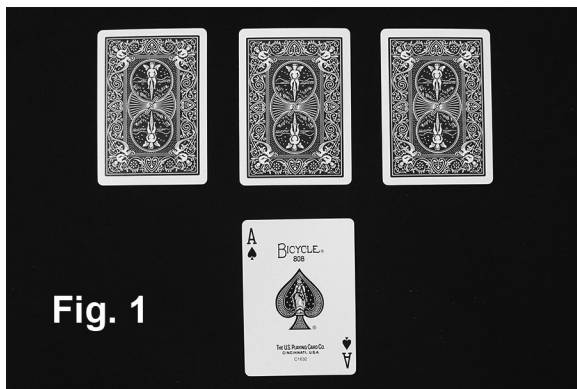


Fig. 1

EFFECT: Jazz Aces with a backfire ending: The four aces are placed in the familiar T-formation (**Figure 1**). Four spot cards are clearly shown in the magician's hand. Now, a spot card is placed face down on the AS, as one of the aces is then placed among the remaining spot cards. After a "magical gesture," the ace is seen to have vanished from among the spot cards. It is now with the leader, the AS. This happens twice more until all three "followers" are now with the AS. The

magician points out that one of the aces, the AS, has not travelled. Three aces are again placed face down in a row. The AS is replaced in leader position by a face up spot card as the AS is placed into the spot card packet. Instantly, the spot cards are found to have been replaced by aces! The three face-down aces are now spot cards.

SET-UP: None.

PROCEDURE: As you spread to openly remove the four aces, cut the deck to position a black six at the face. Upjog the aces as you come to them and finally strip them out, placing them on the face of the deck. Perform these actions with the faces toward you. Make sure that the ace of spades (AS) is at the rear of the group of four aces. So, from the face, it's ace, ace, ace, ace of spades, black six. Square up the five cards (four aces and the black six) and place them face up on the table as you say, *"We'll get back to these cards in a moment."* Note that you haven't shown all the aces yet. This will make the impending ATFUS move more logical.

Now say, *"I need four black cards for contrast"* as you openly spread and upjog two black eights, a black nine and the other black six. Position the black six at the face as you remove the four black spot cards.

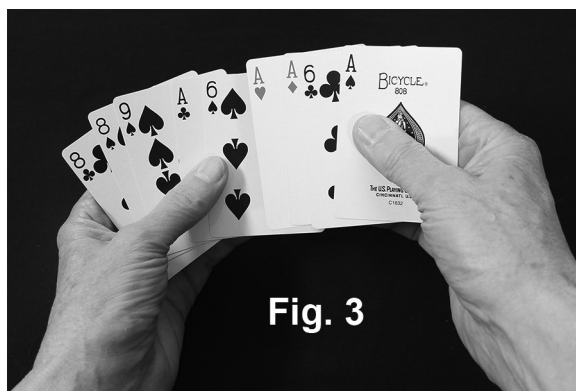
Table the deck and then spread and finally square these cards in the left hand as you pick up a left 4th finger break under the six at the face. Hold these four cards in the left hand as the right hand picks up the ace packet in Biddle Grip*. Place the right hand's cards onto those in the left hand in readiness for Marlo's ATFUS* switch-out. The right thumb takes over the break, now *over* the black six in the left-hand packet. (Technically when the move is done face up it's called "FUFU" (face up, face up). Briefly: The right-hand controls six cards. It has a break over the sixth card, a black six. Use the left thumb to hold the ace at the face in place as the right hand pulls its now five cards to the right and clear of the left hand's cards. **Figure 2** shows this in action. As the right hand again positions its cards on top of those in the left hand, pull down on the broken card (black six) at its inner right corner using the left 4th finger, thus pulling it onto those in the left hand. Maintain a break between the packets i.e. over the six.



In a continuing action, peel the second ace as the left 4th finger maintains a break below it. Again, move the right hand's three cards to the left. You now take back the ace above the break into the right-hand packet as the third ace is peeled. This ace can be peeled to a slightly sidejogged position, showing that the same black six is exactly where it should be. This really sells the idea that everything is copacetic. Finally, take the sidejogged ace under the right hand's packet.

STATUS CHECK: The left-hand packet from the face is: black six, ace, three other black spot cards. The right hand's group from the face is: AS, black six, ace, ace. (**Figure 3**)

Table the left hand's cards face down to the left. Now flip the right hand's cards to face down in the left hand. Take the top card (ace) and flash its face as you place it face down on the pad at position A (Figure 1). Do the same with the next ace, placing it a B. You can't show the third ace, but you can obscure this fact as follows: Take the bottom card (ace of spades) and place it to the right of the first two aces i.e. at C. Now flash its face and say, *"Oh, this is the leader ace. He goes here."* Move the AS, face up, to the leader position (D) and immediately place the black six, face down, to the right of the two



aces, ending as in **Figure 1**. You're ready to make some magic!

THE TRANSPOSITIONS: In each case you will seem to put a black spot card onto the leader Ace of Spades and replace the spot card with one of the "follower" aces. The ace will jump back with the leader as the spot card returns to its packet. This will happen three times. Say, *"The ace of spades is the leader ace. We'll leave it face up."*

Pick up the spot card packet face down in right hand Biddle Grip*. Use the left thumb to peel the top three cards face down into the left hand reversing their order. Turn the left hand palm down in order to show the faces of these cards. Simultaneously, rotate the right hand palm upward showing the black six at the face. Be sure to keep the double in alignment. Now reverse the process, rotating the left hand to palm up again and the right hand to palm down. Finally, place the right hand's double card face down onto the left hand's three face down cards and square up the packet. You have shown that you have four black spot cards in the left hand.

TRANSPOSITION 1: Take the top card (an ace) and place it face down and jogged to the right on the face up AS as you say, *"A black spot card goes onto the leader ace."* Now pick up the ace at position A and, without flashing its face, insert it under the top card of the left hand's packet. Flip the packet face up. You will show that the ace has vanished as follows:

Buckle* the bottom card (black six) and obtain a left 4th finger break over it. Now use the left thumb to push the face card a bit to the right so you can take it in the right hand with thumb on top and fingers underneath. Repeat this with the second card, taking it under the first one. Now, reach into the break above the bottom card and take the double (as one) under the first two cards. This leaves you with a single black six in the left hand. Apparently, the ace has vanished since you seem to have only four black spot cards. Place the black six at the face and square up the spot card packet into the left hand. Finally, turn the face down card that was placed on the leader to face up. The ace has transposed with the spot card formerly face down on the leader ace. Leave this ace face up and sidejogged on the ace of spades.

TRANPOSITION 2: You can spread the spot card packet showing four black spot cards if you keep the last two cards as one. This is optional. Flip the packet face down and perform



Fig. 4

a double turnover showing a spot card. Turn the double face down and deal the top card (an ace) sidejogged to the right on the leader packet. Pick up the ace as B and, without showing its face, place it second from top in the spot card packet. **Figure 4** shows the situation at this point.

Square up the spot cards and make your magi-

cal gesture as you say, *“Watch the power of the leader ace.”* Flip the spot card packet face up and, as before, buckle the bottom card so that you can repeat the showing of four spot cards as described above in the second paragraph of *“TRANSPOSITION 1.”* The lowermost spot card is placed on top, leaving an ace at the rear of the packet. Flip the face down ace on the leader pile to face up.

TRANSPOSITION 3: Repeat this exact sequence (TRANSPOSITION 2) once more. At this point each of the three “follower aces” has been placed into the spot card packet as a spot card has been placed on the leader ace. But magically the ace returns to the leader as the spot card returns to its starting place. All three “follower” aces have travelled back to the leader. All the aces are face up and the routine seems to be over. However, a big surprise is about to happen.

STATUS CHECK: There are five spot cards in the spot card packet at this point. If you spread them as four by keeping the bottom two cards as one, you will see the original cast of characters i.e. two black eights, a black nine and a black six. The four aces are face up with the ace of spades at the rear.

THE BIG SWITCHAROO: Turn the spot card packet face down in the left hand and obtain a break under the top three cards. Now flip the ace packet face down and take it, squared, in right hand Biddle Grip*. You will now use **J.K. Hartman’s Multiple Count Change*** to switch out three of the spot cards for aces. To wit:

MULTIPLE COUNT CHANGE: The aces are face down in right hand Biddle Grip*. Rotate the right hand palm upward, flashing the face of an ace. Move the packet over the left hand’s cards as though you are going to peel the top card onto the packet in the left hand. However, instead of peeling the ace, you will execute a sort of Top Change action. To wit:

Allow the outer right corner of the three card packet above the break to move slightly away from its packet. Now move the right hand to the position shown in **Figure 5**. Notice how the right 3rd finger has contacted the outer right corner of the three card packet in readiness for the move. The right thumb contacts the packet at the inner short edge. Now swing the lower packet to the right using the right 3rd finger. This occurs as the left thumb contacts the upper packet at its outer left corner (**Figure 6**). Continue by moving the right hand to the right until

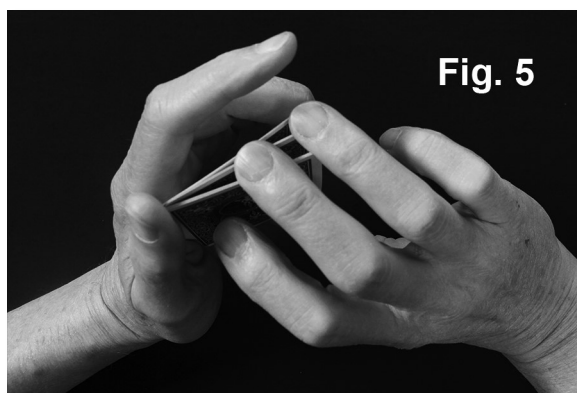
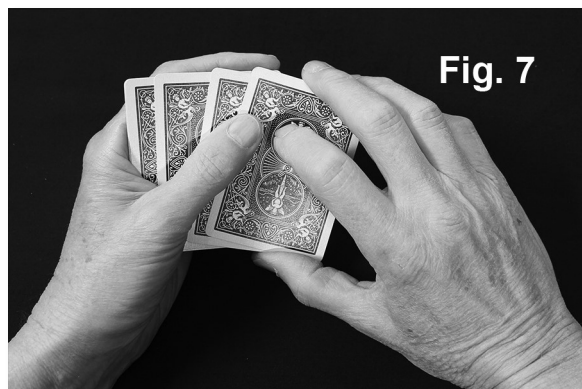


Fig. 5



Fig. 6

the packet of three is completely free from the other cards. Catch a left 4th finger break under the aces as the right hand packet clears the left hand's cards. You want it to appear that you simply peeled the top ace onto the deck. Actually, you "peeled" all four aces and now have three of the black spot cards in the right hand. The spectators believe that these are aces. Continue to peel and sidejog each of the three X cards ending as in **Figure 7**.



Begin to square the jogged cards with the packet. Allow the right fingers to enter the break held by the left 4th finger. When they are nearly square, flip the entire block of seven cards above the break, face up onto the remaining two cards (Zarrow Addition*). Catch a left 4th finger break under the block of seven as you say, *"Three aces have travelled. The leader ace has always stayed in position."*

Spread the top three aces to the right exposing the AS on top of the left hand's cards. Square up the aces with the cards above the break and immediately flip the entire block of seven cards face down, using the Zarrow technique described above. This positions three black spot cards on top. Deal the top three cards into a face down horizontal row from left to right. Finally, turn the next card, AS, face up and place it, face up, in "leader" position. The three face down cards are assumed to be the aces. Turn the left hand's packet face up. A black spot card shows at the face. Now say, *"The AS is the only ace that hasn't travelled. Let's see what happens if we replace it with a black spot card."*

Take the top black spot card and place it face up next to the AS. Another black spot card shows at the face making everything feel exactly as it should. Place the AS face up onto the left hand's packet. You're set for a mind blowing ending.

Obtain a break under the top two cards of the left hand's group as you say, *"Watch the power of the leader ace. Remember the three aces over here?"* Gesture at the three tabled face down cards. Now say, *"They're gone!"* Lift the two cards above the break and drop the double to the table as a single. Then drop each of the other aces singly on top of the AS.

If you're worried about the double splitting, you can alternately move the double to the rear of the left hand's packet and then spread the five cards as four by holding the bottommost two cards as one. In either case, it's clear that something extraordinary has happened. Three aces have jumped to join the leader ace.

Table the ace packet and flip the three face down spot cards to face up revealing the full transposition. BAM!

FINAL THOUGHTS: This is a very clean handling of the O'Henry variation of Peter Kane's Jazz Aces. I think the original Jazz Aces suffers from the repetition. The last ace is expected.

There's no punch.

CREDITS: This all started when John Neely sent me a very interesting version of Jazz Aces. I have always thought that Jazz Aces needed a better ending than simply having the last ace jump back to the leader as the other two had done already. It didn't seem to build to a climax the way Matrix does. John's routine, which appeared in my Card Corner column in The Linking Ring in May 2012 was called Jazz It Up. My variation of John's routine appeared the following month. What made John's routine cool was a backfire ending where the aces trade places with the spot cards. This is the so called "O'Henry" ending.

I got feedback on these routines from a magic site that I frequent. Most members seemed disinterested. However, John Bannon PMed me indicating that he thought "there was something there." Recently John published his take on the Neely concept (*Genii*, November 2017). John called his routine "Well-Tempered Aces." I think John's handling of the Neely concept is the best one to date that uses only eight cards.

Having read John's routine, I revisited the backfire concept applied to Jazz Aces. It occurred to me that adding an extra spot card would make the routine substantially better. All the shows of X cards would be pure i.e. there would be four black spot cards – no Elmsley Counts to fake the notion of four spot cards. Also, at the end, the extra card really enhances the backfire by having a spot card at the face of the supposed spot card group immediately before the transposition takes place. I encourage the reader to check the original Neely routine (Linking Ring May 2012) as well as Bannon's routine in *Genii* (November 2017) for comparison.