

A Mad Tea Party

Card Trick



"Alice sighed wearily. 'I think you might do something better with the time,' she said, 'than waste it in asking riddles that have no answers.'

'If you knew Time as well as I do,' said the Hatter, 'you wouldn't talk about wasting it. It's him.'

'I don't know what you mean,' said Alice.

'Of course you don't!' the Hatter said, tossing his head contemptuously. 'I dare say you never even spoke to Time!'

Lewis Carol - Alice's adventures in Wonderland

A Mad Tea Party Card Trick

The Effect:

The Mad Hatter's Tea Party Trick is a sleight free, self working close up card effect. It is also very quick to reset. I got this idea from the well known effect called "The Clock"

What you need:

- ◆ 26 of the cards from the Cheshire Tarot deck, 2 cards should be identical (Fading Cheshire Cat Magician cards or Jabberwocky mirror image cards)
- ◆ Your Alice doppelgänger.
- ◆ A fob watch on a chain (or a picture of one—see notes).

The Storyline:

"Would you like to see what time can do?" Said the Mad Hatter.

"Of course" Alice replied.

The Mad Hatter reached under his hat and took out a set of Tarot cards, "The Queen would have my head if she knew I had these. She doesn't think they are natural" He said with a smile. He looked through the cards carefully and then took one card which he placed in a certain book face down and sticking out where all could see. Then leaning across the table he snatched The White Rabbit's pocket watch from his waistcoat and placed it in front of Alice along with the rest of the cards all face down.

"Look at the hours on the watch" he said to Alice "And then close your eyes. In your head think of all the numbers one by one and then choose an hour, no don't tell me or anyone around the table which hour you've chosen just keep it in your head."

Alice followed his instructions carefully and when done she said "I'm done"

"Now" said the Mad Hatter "We shall all turn away whilst you quiet as a dormouse deal face down an amount of cards equal to the hour that you have chosen and then place them in a pocket or somewhere else none of us can see them."

Alice followed his instructions carefully and when done she said "I'm done"

"Now" Said the Mad Hatter "Deal face down twelve cards into a pile on the table and discard the rest of the cards"

Again Alice carefully followed his instructions.

"Good" Said the Mad Hatter, "Now one at a time place the 12 cards face down in a circle one card at the position of each hour of a clock starting at one o'clock and working around to twelve."

The Mad Hatter then looked carefully at the cards and picking up the fob watch by the chain he began moving it one by one over each card until it began to spin over one particular card. "X O'clock" said the Mad Hatter " A good choice"

He then slid the card next to the book. "Now " Alice did. "Now turn over the card that was at the hour of your choosing" Said The Mad Hatter.

Alice did.

"Turn over all the rest of the cards in the clock" Said The Mad Hatter, Alice did so and saw that they were all different. "

The Set Up:

Pick all of the five red and five yellow cards of the Major Arcana from the Cheshire Deck and then sixteen cards including either the two Magicians cards where the Cheshire Cat is fading or the two Jabberwocky cards.

One of the duplicate cards is placed a couple of cards from the bottom of the deck ready to be 'chosen' and placed in the book, the other duplicate card is placed thirteenth from the top of the face down packet.



The Working:

Once the deck has been set as above you are ready to go.

The performer makes a show of looking through the cards, picking one and slipping it into the book face down but sticking out where all can see it.

The fob watch should be placed in front of the spectator along with the face down stack of cards.

The spectator is asked to close their eyes and picture the face of the fob watch in their mind. They are asked to focus on one particular hour on the clock between 1 and 12, to keep it to themselves.

The spectator is asked to pick up the 25 face down Tarot cards and to deal face down an amount of cards from the top of the stack that corresponds to the hour that they thought of and then place them in their pocket or somewhere else out of sight whilst the performers back is turned.

The performer then asks the spectator to deal down 12 cards onto the table face down on top of each other one at a time representing each hour on the face of the watch counting the hours as they go. They are encouraged not to give away the hour of their choosing.

They are asked to pick up the twelve cards and place them face down in a circle one at a time at the position of each hour starting at 1 o'clock and working around to 12.



The chosen card can be spotted amongst the twelve cards by the fact that it is a blue backed card and is marked on the back.

The performer asks the spectator to picture the hour that they thought of in their mind and the performer divines the card by using the fob watch as a pendulum. They then slide it face down into the centre of the circle and ask the spec to take the card from the book and keeping it face down placed it next to the chosen card.

The spectator is asked to turnover both of the cards starting with the one that was in the book.



The spectator is encouraged to turn over the rest of the cards and find that they are all different.

Notes:

Using the number on the fob watch that the spec chose you now have the option of going straight into a doppelgänger performance using your copy of Alice.

The trick can also be performed using a standard pack of playing cards utilising the Jokers as the duplicate cards.

If you want to go the full hog you could use a top hat and place the prediction card in the hat band.

If you don't own a fob watch print and cut out two copies of the picture below and stick them either side of some thick card.

