

# *How many cards do you have?*

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I was doing this trick in my last magic show, and even though the first effect was good, I tried to do it a second time with 3 packets. Then I found that it was amazing!!!

I explain the technique in my last magic trick (number 7 for April, 2006). Now I will give you one small routine to do with this "technique".

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## **Trick:**

The magician takes the deck in his hands and will pass cards from the bottom to the top. He asks somebody from the audience to say stop at any time while he is passing the cards. When the spectator says stop, the magician takes a packet from the top of the deck and gives this to the spectator. Also the magician tells the spectator to hold the packet between his hands and don't move the packet. Then the magician says that the spectator needs to hold up his hands with the cards to show the audience. Later ask somebody else to say stop again at any time. While the magician is passing the cards, a second spectator says stop and he repeats the same as before: separate the packet from the deck and give it to the second spectator. He takes the packet in his hands and shows it to everybody. After this process, the magician does it again with somebody else, repeating the whole process. At the end, 3 spectators have packets in their hands. Now the magician asks to the assistants: **do you know how many cards you have?** Probably they will say something, but of course they are not sure how many cards they have. The magician takes the hands of the first spectator and he concentrates in the cards... He says: you have 10 cards, please open your hands and count the cards. The spectator does it and he counts 10 cards! Then the magician goes to the second spectator and takes his hands and says: you have 8... no, you have 5 cards. The same as before the spectator opens his hands and count 5 cards. As a grand finale, the magician doesn't touch the hands of the last spectator and says you have ... 7 cards, then the spectator opens the hands and counts 7 cards... applause!!!

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**Secret:**

Fine, you know the technique, so for the first 10 cards take ten cards from the top of the deck and be ready in the position of the technique. Take the deck in your hands and pass the cards from the bottom to the top and when the spectator says stop, give him the ten cards that you have already. In this moment call the attention to the spectator's hands and the cards, while you are separating another 5 cards from the top of the deck and leave there ready for the technique. Ask somebody else say stop, and give him the five cards, and again call the attention to his hands and cards while you separate another 7 cards from the top of the deck. And do the whole process one more time. Now at this point they have the cards that you want them to have in their hands. In this moment you need to perform your magic acting as a mentalist.

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