

Learn... Card Tricks



**Brian
Richards**

Welcome to the wonderful world of magic!

For over twenty years, I have had the pleasure of entertaining audiences of all ages with magic and laughter. One of the greatest pleasures in my life is bringing joy and smiles to others through the wonderful art of MAGIC. I want you to discover this joy as well.

Within these pages are card tricks that you can perform with just an ordinary deck of cards. The tricks are easy to learn and perform.

But before learning any tricks, it is important that you know and agree to follow the **THREE RULES of MAGIC**:

- 1) **Never Reveal A Secret** - It's more fun to keep it a secret.
- 2) **Never Repeat A Trick For The Same Audience** - When you repeat a trick, it is easier for the audience to catch on.
- 3) **Practice, Practice, Practice** - Practice not only the moves, but what you say as well.

Are you ready to learn some tricks? Grab a deck of cards and get ready to become AMAZING!

Have Fun!

Brian Richards



I Knew You'd Pick That

On the table are five cards and a folded piece of paper with a prediction written on it. The prediction is a secret, only you the magician know what it is.

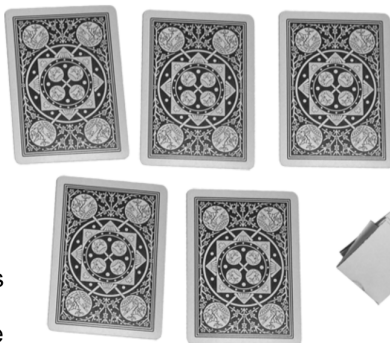
Thru a process of elimination, the cards are narrowed down to just one. When the prediction is opened up, it matches the chosen card. It seems that you can see into the future!

Here is the secret:

This is a useful technique for making the audience think they are choosing the card. In fact, it's the magician that makes the choice... which is why this technique is called "Magician's Choice".

Before the trick begins, you need to know which card you want the audience to pick. This is your "force card". Since they're face down, make sure you remember where it is on the table top.

Ask your audience helper to "point" to two cards. Don't say "pick" or they may pick up two cards which could spoil the trick.



Now you have two choices to make here, and this is where the secret of the trick comes in.

If your "force card" is one of the two pointed at, then place the other three cards into a pile on the side of the table. Leave your force card and the other one where they are.

If neither of the two cards pointed at is the "force card", then put those two cards onto the pile, leaving three untouched.

In other words, the helper does have a free choice of cards.... but you decide whether the cards stay or go.

There are now two or three cards left on the table. This time ask the helper to point to just one card.



Again, this card stays or goes depending on whether it's the force card. If it is the force card, move the remaining cards to the pile and leave the force card where it is.

If it's not the force card, move it to the pile and ask the helper to point to another card.

Eventually there will be one card left on the table. This is the force card. Turn it over so everybody can see.

Now have the helper unfold the prediction and show that they match!

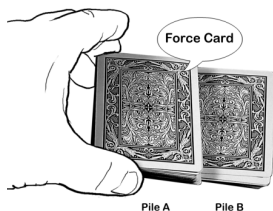
Of course, this trick could be done with items other than cards. Three to five objects work best. Any more or less and you run the risk of the audience figuring it out.

"Forcing" a Card

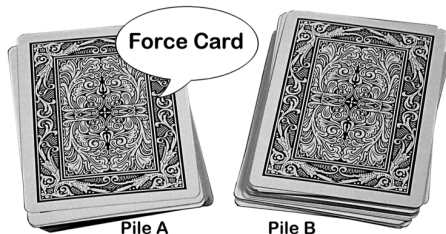
The spectator picks the card YOU want, but they think it's the card THEY want.

The Cut Force

Before starting the trick, secretly remember the top card of the deck. This is the "force card" that you will force your friend (the spectator) to choose, although she will think it is a free choice.

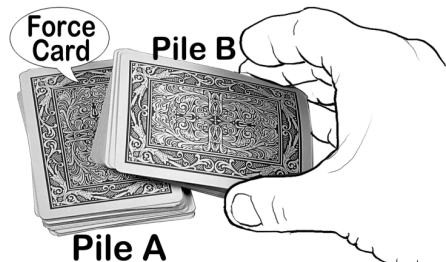


Have the spectator lift up half the deck, and place it on the table. This is called cutting the deck.



You now have two piles of cards, A and B. The card your friend will choose, the force card, is on the top of pile A. Keep track of where the force card is, don't forget it.

Tell the spectator you will mark where the cut was. Pick up pile B, and place it sideways on top of pile A. The photo below shows their position.

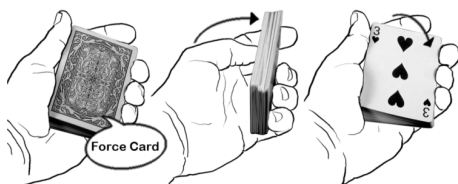


Ask the spectator if she has seen the card yet, and when she says no, lift pile B, and have the spectator take the top card of pile A. Your friend will think this is where she cut the deck of cards, so when the card is picked up, they will think it is their card.

The Scarf Force

Once again, secretly remember the top card of the deck. You will also need a scarf that you cannot see through. Hold the deck in your hand, and drape the scarf over it.

Here comes the important move.



Under cover of the scarf, turn the deck upside-down in your hand. The photos are shown without the scarf. The spectator can not see it, since the hanky is covering it up, so he will think it is normal.

Spectator

Now have the spectator lift up the top half of the deck.

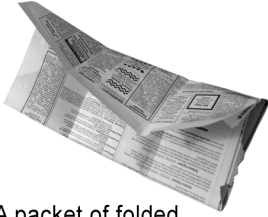
Before the scarf uncovers your hand, turn the bottom half of the deck right-side up.

You

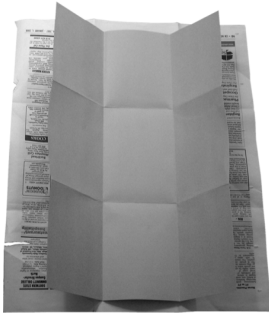
When the spectator takes the top card off the deck in your hand, he will think it is the chosen card



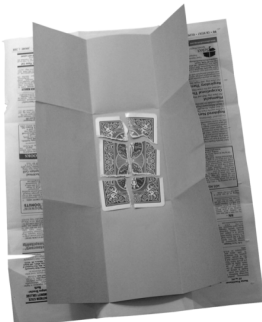
Folding Paper Gimmick



A packet of folded newspaper is opened up, and inside is a yellow piece of folded paper.

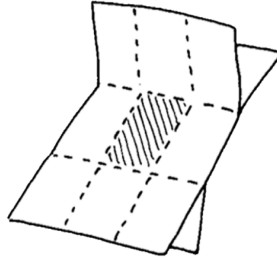


After opening that, a torn card is placed in it, then the yellow paper folded back up. Next the newspaper is wrapped around the yellow paper, and everybody says the magic words. When everything is unfolded, it is seen that the card has magically been restored!



The secret:

The yellow piece of paper is actually 2 pieces glued back to back. Each paper is folded in exactly the same way.



Folded into the back side is a whole card, which matches the torn card. You'll need to use 2 decks. Make sure you have permission before tearing cards.

When opening the newspaper and yellow paper, be careful not to show the back of the yellow paper. Nobody should know it's double sided. Don't lift up the yellow paper, keep it sitting on the newspaper.

Have an audience helper tear the card, that will make the trick more interesting. Now lace the torn pieces in the center of the yellow paper.

Carefully fold the yellow paper, while keeping it in the center of the newspaper.

Now comes the secret move. While folding the newspaper, simply turn over the yellow paper. The large size of the newspaper will help to cover this move. Practice this often so it will be done smoothly.

After the audience has helped by saying the magic words, open the newspaper, the yellow paper, and show the torn card has become whole again!

These folded papers are a very useful tool for switching one flat item for another. Restoring a torn card is just one of many ways it can be used.

You could turn a blank piece of paper into a dollar bill, or 5 one dollar bills into 1 five dollar bill. You could use it to vanish a card, or to make one appear.

A great bonus... it folds up small and can be carried in your pocket, ready to use whenever needed.

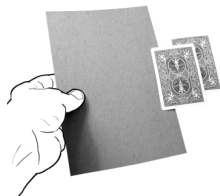


Cardboard Card Prediction

On the table is a piece of cardboard and a deck of cards. You explain to the audience that you will do this trick without touching the cards at any time.



Pick up the cardboard and have an audience helper pick up the deck of cards. Instruct them to place a card on the cardboard. You slide it off and begin making a pile of cards.



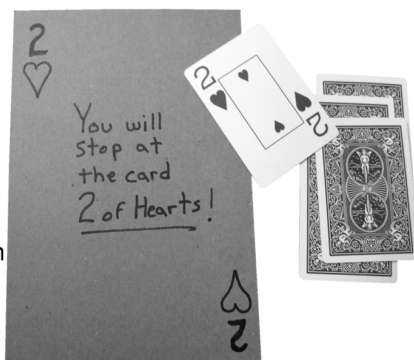
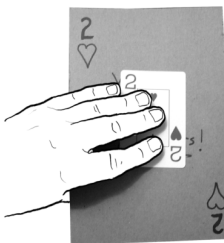
Have another card placed on the cardboard, then another and another. While the pile of cards is forming, tell them they can stop at any time, they can pull a card from the middle of the deck, they can even cut or shuffle the cards if they want.

When they decide to stop, you drop the cardboard on top of the pile of cards. Move your hands away, and ask somebody to please turn over the piece of cardboard. Written on the other side is a prediction. Now have somebody turn over the top card of the pile, and they match!

How does this work?

The reason your audience helper can cut, shuffle and use any card in the deck is because the predicted card is not in the deck at all.

The whole time you're holding the cardboard and placing the cards on the pile, the 2 of hearts is held underneath the cardboard, hidden from view. When your helper is finished laying down the cards, you drop the cardboard on top of the pile. This places the predicted card on top. That's it! Just make sure the card is positioned the same way as the pile of cards.



There are a few details to keep in mind when doing this trick. When sliding the cards onto the pile, make sure you don't tilt the cardboard... people may get a glimpse of the card underneath. Practice this in front of a mirror so you can be sure the card is not showing.

Emphasize many times that you are not touching the cards, this will make the trick more powerful.

Wait until there are a few cards on the pile before you mention they can stop any time. If you tell them at the

beginning of the trick, and they stop after one card... you have a problem.

If the pile gets messy to the point where there may be confusion as to which is the top card, ask your helper to straighten it out a bit. Remember, you don't want to touch the cards.

This is a great trick... practice and have fun with it!

The Case of the Card in the Case

Helpful Hints... Buying Tricks

Going into a magic shop to buy a new trick is fun, but make sure you are prepared BEFORE you go. Remember, the person behind the counter doesn't know what kind of tricks you like, or what type of shows you do, so you need to tell them.

How much experience does the trick require? Some tricks are very difficult even for magicians with 20 years experience, so you should wait before buying them.

How much does it cost? Many tricks are quite expensive, and only do one thing. The best thing to buy, instead of a trick, is a book. In a magic book, you will find dozens, maybe hundreds of tricks. Sometimes you will find out how to make one of the tricks you saw in the store. This will save you some money.

Some tricks you will have to buy, because they are difficult to make yourself. Sponge balls, card vanish boxes, thumb-tips and linking rings are just a few examples.

Of course, always shop around for the best price.

For this routine you'll need a deck of cards, one duplicate card, a way to vanish the card, and the card case (the box that the cards come in when purchased).

Here's what happens: The spectator picks a card, remembers it, and shows it to everyone. (It's ok if you see it). The card disappears, and reappears inside the card case, which was in full view at all times. This is a very strong routine, which people will remember for a long time.

How does it work? Have the duplicate card on top of the deck, inside the case. When you pull the deck out of the box, leave the duplicate inside. Keep the opening of the case towards you, so nobody sees you leave the card inside.



Lay the card case on the table, so everybody can see it (but keep the duplicate inside and hidden). Have the spectator choose a card, but make sure s/he gets the card which matches the one in the case. You'll need to force the card.

Here is where you vanish the card, but don't say you're going to vanish it. Just say you'll wrap it up for safe keeping.

Now say the magic words, wave the wand, jump up and down, or whatever. Show that the card is gone, then point to the card case. Tell one of the spectators to open it, and show the card inside.

Comedy Magic Marker

Helpful Hints... Gag Lines

Whether you are doing tricks for friends, or performing shows for a room full of strangers, it's important to make the tricks entertaining. One way is to have some funny things to say. These are called "ad-libs", because they are supposed to sound like you just made them up.

Even the best performers have jokes and funny "lines" written ahead of time. Whenever you hear something funny, or think of a good line, write it down in a notebook. Here are a few to get you started:

- "Notice that my fingers never leave my hand."
- "Please close your eyes, because the trick is a lot easier to do that way."
- "My first trick this evening is impossible, so I'll start with the second"
- (Take the top card from the deck, place it in your friends hand, and say) "Select any card you like from the deck"

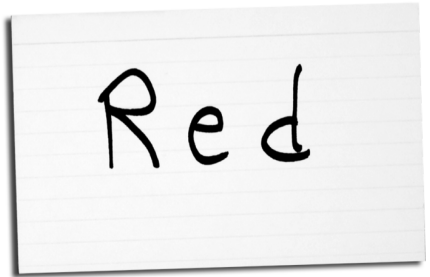
This is more of a joke than a trick, but to make it really funny, you need to act like it is an amazing magic trick.

Start by borrowing a marker from somebody, then tell the audience that you can turn this into a magic pencil. If nobody has a marker, just use one of your own.

Place the marker on the table, wave your magic wand, say the magic words, wiggle your toes, or whatever, then say that this marker is now a magic marker and will write whatever color they name.

Have somebody name any color. Let's say it is red. Now pick up the marker, and get ready to write. Make it seem like you're getting ready for a great feat of magic.

When you have everyone's attention, quickly write the word RED on the paper in big letters, and hold it up for all to see. You may now hand out the marker and the paper for examination.



Here is another good trick that turns out to be a joke. Tell a helper you have written a prediction of what they will say. Show the back of the paper, but make sure nobody can see through it.

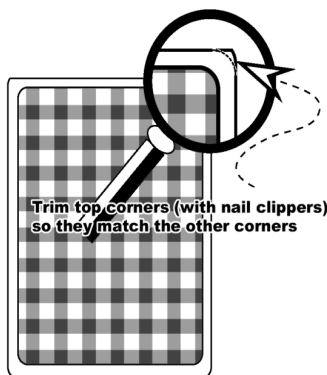
Now ask if your helper knows what is written on this paper. When s/he says no, you turn the paper around and show the word NO in big letters.

The Short Card Key Card

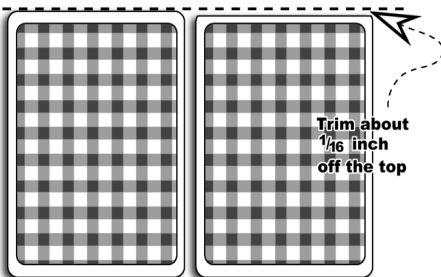
Many card tricks start with somebody choosing a card, looking at it, then putting it back. You must find the card. This page will show you a way to do that! By using a short card, it is easy to find a chosen card. It takes a lot of PRACTICE, because you need to feel the card with your fingertips, and hear it with your ears.

A card is trimmed $\frac{1}{16}$ th of an inch shorter than all the others. This may not seem like much, but it makes a big difference when you riffle the ends of the deck. You may need an adults help with the trimming.

Next, using fingernail clippers, trim the corners so they match the other cards as closely as possible.



How do you riffle the cards? First, make sure the edges of the deck are perfectly flat. Tap it gently on a table to set them. Bend back one end of the deck, but not too far, or you will not be able to riffle correctly. Softly let go of one card at a time. When you come to the short card, it will feel different, and if you are riffling correctly, it will automatically stop. You may also hear the "snap" when you hit the short card.



To use the short card to find a chosen card: Make sure the short card is on the bottom of the deck. Have a helper choose any card. Have her put the chosen card on top of the deck. Now tell her to cut the deck, and place the bottom half on top of the other half. That automatically places the short card on top of the chosen card. Try it and see!



Finding it is easy now. Just riffle the cards until you come to the short card. The chosen card will be the next one down. Easy!

A way to make this trick even better is to let your helper cut the deck as often as they want after they have inserted the chosen card. The short card should stay on top of the chosen card. If your helper cuts the deck between the short card and the chosen card, then the chosen card will be on top of the deck, and the short card will be on the bottom. If that happens, just cut the deck one more time, and the chosen and short card will be together again.

Sometimes you may have trouble finding the short card. This usually happens when the short card is near the top or bottom of the deck. Just cut the deck, and riffle again.

Comedy Trick Cards

Helpful Hints... Comedy in Magic

When you do a magic show, there are many ways to present it. How you present it makes a big difference on how your show is seen by the audience.

You could be very serious. This works well if you are doing a mind reading trick, or a major illusion (such as vanishing the Statue of Liberty).

You could be very friendly. It's always good to be friendly, but especially if you're doing a show for friends or small children.

You could be funny. The comedy approach is the most popular. There are different types of comedy. At one extreme is a slapstick clown, who keeps falling and tripping, to a nightclub comic, who tells jokes and does impressions.

The best way for deciding which presentation to use is to be yourself, and do what feels right for you.

If you've ever seen a magician with cards, you may know what this next flourish looks like. (A flourish is not a trick, but something that just looks flashy). A deck of cards is "sprung" from one hand to another, like a waterfall.

Most magicians use real sleight of hand, called "springing the cards". It takes time to learn, but it's not very difficult. Hold the deck in your hand, at the fingertips, and bend it **inward** toward your palm. Let the cards slide off the **fingertips**, holding them back at the thumb tips. Catch them by holding your other hand as though you were holding a baseball. Aim the cards towards your fingers. It takes practice... ideally over a table or bed to make it easier to pick up the cards that scatter. And they will.

The method on this page is easier, and you can use it to get a laugh in your routine.

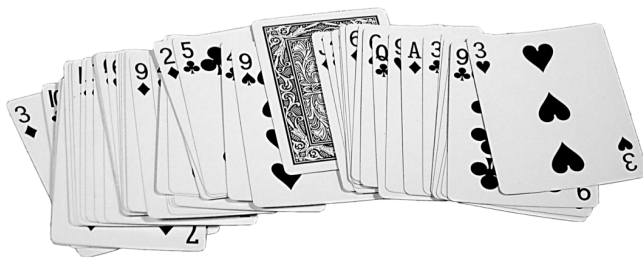
As the picture shows, a few cards from the deck (about 40) are stapled together at the ends, so it zig-zags. Make sure you use an old deck and get permission.



Position your hands one on top of the other. Hold the trick deck in the top hand, and slowly let them drop into the bottom hand, one at a time. Even though you're not using slight of hand, it still requires **PRACTICE!** As you get better, move your hands farther apart.

Here's how to get a good laugh using these cards. After the second time of dropping the cards from top to bottom, forget to catch them with the bottom hand. Let the cards hang free. Don't notice at first, pause, then see the cards and react. Pretend you've messed up the trick, and act embarrassed.

The Upside-Down Card Location



Ask a helper to choose any card from the deck. Show it around, then put it back in the deck. You try to find it, but can't. You spread the cards out, but one card is upside-down... it's the chosen card!

Here is how it works:

Your helper picks any card she wants. If you want, the front of the card may be signed with a magic marker, so they can't forget the card. You then tell her to show the card to everyone, and to make sure you don't see it, you turn your back to the audience. Keep the deck of cards in your hands. Now comes the secret move.

Keep your elbows against your sides, so the audience can't see any movements from behind. Turn the deck upside-down, then turn the top card upside down. You now have a deck that looks normal even though it's actually upside-down.



When you turn around, hold the deck in your hand just like it was before, and insert the chosen card into the deck. You've actually put the card into an upside-down deck, but the audience will think it's normal.

Announce you will find the card without looking, and hold the deck behind your back. Grab the top card (the one that's upside-down), show it to everyone, and ask if it was the chosen card. When they say no, look a little worried and say you'll try again.

Reach behind you and grab the next card, show it to everyone, and again they will say no. Now act like you really messed up the trick, and start spreading the cards apart like in the photo at the top of this page.

When you come to the upside down card, push it out onto the table, but keep your finger on it. Tell everybody that the card turned upside-down by magic.

Now ask your helper what the name of the card was, and when she says it, turn the card over and show it. Take a bow to the thunderous applause!



Card Spelling

Helpful Hints... Think Ahead & Be Prepared

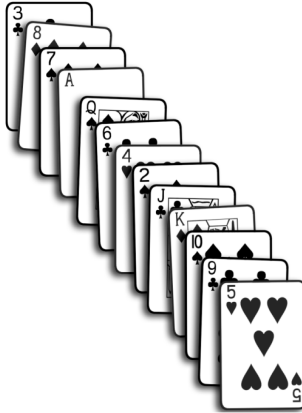
As you perform more shows, things will go wrong, but if you're ready, they won't mess up your performance.

One time a magician was doing a cut and restored rope trick, and his helper, using a sharp pair of scissors, cut the magician's finger instead of the rope. What would you do if that happened?

The best thing to do is make sure it doesn't happen at all. How? Cut the rope yourself, or use a pair of safety scissors, or carefully hold the helper's wrist when he cuts the rope. Always figure out what could go wrong, then think of ways to keep mistakes from happening.

What did the cut magician do? He went off stage, got a cloth, and wrapped his finger up. It got a laugh, and everyone thought it was part of the show. Of course, after the show he washed it with soap & water, then put a bandage on it.

Before starting this trick, take the cards out of the deck that you see in the picture, and arrange them in order like the picture. Put the rest of the deck away.



It doesn't matter which suits are used (hearts, clubs, spades, diamonds). Don't let anybody watch you arrange the cards.

When you're done, turn the stack of cards (the packet) over in your hand and hold it just like normal.

Start with the top card (the 3), and spell the first card in the list (ACE), taking the card off the top for each letter, and putting that card on the bottom. Turn the next card over, and it will be the ace.

Place the ace on the table, face up.

Now spell out the next card in the list, the TWO, putting each card on the bottom like before. Turn over the top card, and place it on the table. It will be the two. Continue with the rest of the packet. The list of cards to spell are:

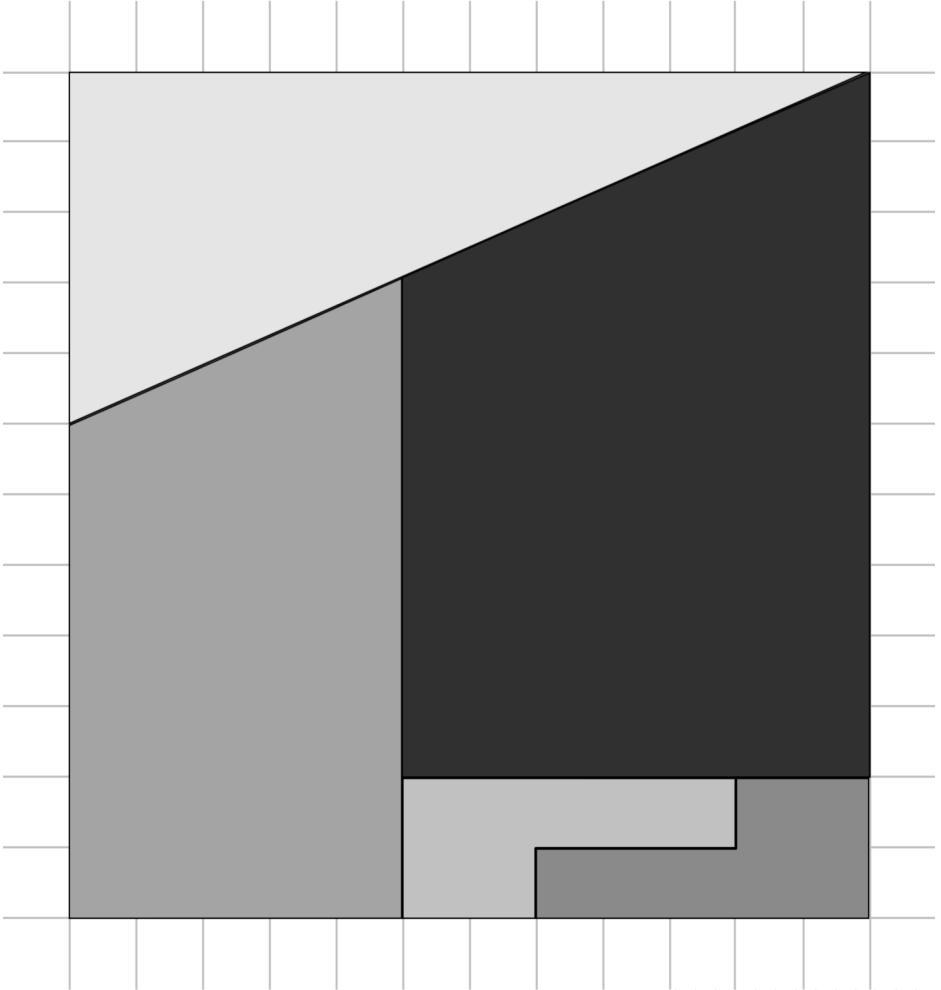
ACE
TWO
THREE
FOUR
FIVE
SIX
SEVEN
EIGHT
NINE
TEN
JACK
QUEEN
KING.

To make this more entertaining, pretend you're not sure if it will work. Of course, you know by now it will work
IF YOU PRACTICE!!

Where Did the Square Go?

Here is a trick that's actually more of a puzzle. Be warned, however, that you're on your own to figure it out!

Trace or copy the large picture below, and cut along the dark lines so you have 5 separate shapes.



Re-arrange the shapes so it looks like this:

See the missing square in the lower right hand corner...
Where did it go?

