

TROST AND US – THE HUMAN SCALE

Some time ago I have watched a video by Aldo Colombini performing and explaining a card trick called Trost and Us. Some of you may be familiar with it, some of you may not.

Anyway, when I have watched the performance and explanation I felt that the trick had some weak points and after making several changes I have come up with a new version that I hope you will like as well.

WEAK POINTS

Here are some weak points that I have felt this trick has:

1. You had to know the identity of the 27th card.
2. You had to count for yourself exactly 26 cards and the spectator knew that you knew exactly how many cards you have in your hand.
3. You had to do the operation of equilibration with the cards face up and your eyes open.

MY VERSION

Here's my version:

Someone asks you to do a trick, a card trick:

You say: "Ok...Please take some cards and shuffle them and I will shuffle the rest."

(Secret: At the start of the trick you have a break at the middle of the pack, between the 26th card and the 27th card so you actually give him half the deck and you keep half – he does not know that)

After he shuffles the cards you say:

“Well, here, please shuffle this as well. I don’t want you to think that I am cheating. I am. I just don’t want you to think that I am.”

You take his half of the deck and wait for him to shuffle the other half as well. When he gives you the other half you take it and put it over the other half still keeping a break in the middle of the pack.

“ We are going to try an experiment. I am not sure if this will work as I have not attempted it in a long time. Please take a number of cards, not very few but fewer than half a pack. Good. Please keep them for now. I will take for me exactly 26 cards as to be sure I have more than you. 1,2,3,4,5,6...Actually you know what just take this (6) cards away...I will just use the rest of the pack as it seems there are more than you have anyway”

At this moment you are closing your eyes and begin the human scale, showing in which hand there are more cards. You throw some cards from the hand with your cards and show again which hand has more cards by the meaning of the human scale. And so and so again until you equilibrate the hands and you show that you are indeed a human scale.

(The secret: After the spectator takes some cards you will still have some cards above the break. You say that you will count 26 cards for you. You begin counting and you count until you hit the break...meaning all the cards above the break are gone. Then you count 2 more cards just for fun. If at the point of hitting the break you have counted 6 cards, then the spectator hand has $26 - 6 = 20$ cards. So you will know how many cards the spectator hand has by counting how many cards remain until the break.

As said, after you hit the break you count two more cards and say: Actually you know what. Please get this cards away, the cards in my hand seem more than

yours so I will just use these. At this point your hand has 24 cards, as you have counted two more on the table , just for fun.

So you know how many cards your hand has even if the spectator does not know that. And you know how many cards the spectator hand has even if the spectator does not now that. At this point you are ready to do the human scale.

After you equilibrate the cards, if you feel cheeky you can even say...yes, yes they are equilibrated now, 20 cards in each hand. (Or the number of cards the spectator took)

CREDITS:

ALDO COLOMBINI, NICK TROST

PS: THIS TRICK CAN BE DONE WITH BUSINESS CARDS AS WELL