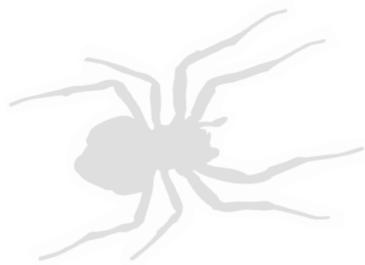


DIAMOND JIM TYLER'S

# OMINOUS DECK

*The deck of cards that changes into a  
clear block with a creepy crawly inside!*



HISTORY OF THIS EFFECT: Paul Harris created **Solid Deception**, where a deck changes into a block of cards all stuck together, and published it in 1976 and marketed it in 1980. During the mid 1970's Jerry Andrus independently made a clear block which he used as an illustration during a lecture about perception. My friend Dan Korem so-named Andrus' clear block the **Omni Deck**, since Jerry had just been featured in *Omni* magazine. Dan developed an ambitious card routine with the **Omni Deck**, with Jerry's blessings, and first published it in his book *Korem Without Limits* (one of my favorite magic books) in 1985. Dan marketed the effect and later gave *Palmer Magic* the rights to produce it. *Palmer Magic* was purchased by my friend Shawn Farquhar who is one of my favorite magicians on Earth. Shawn developed the idea of making the **Omni Deck** a little smaller to make it easy to prepare for a double-lift.

I came up with the idea of having a spider or scorpion appear inside of the clear block. My friend Farquhar let me know that the idea had been done by Andy Clockwise in 2009. Mr. Clockwise is a very clever magician based in the UK. I researched Andy's version called **Bug-O-Me**, that used an odd sized clear block with a bug inside, and a specialty deck of cards with bugs printed on them. Wanting to make a poker-sized block (with a creature inside), basically a more commercial version, at a more affordable price, I struck a deal with Andy and paid him for the rights. I have the utmost respect for all of the magicians involved that led to the creation of THE OMINOUS DECK.

ROUTINE: Spread the cards from hand to hand with a Poker sized pack of cards before a spectator. Instruct them to, "Touch any card." and place it on the table face-down before them. Turn your back to them and ask that they show the card around. Have them place the card back in the deck and control it to the bottom. After doing one false shuffle and leaving it on the bottom I'll tell them, "I have no idea what your card is but I do know where your card is. Currently it is 22 from the top." I'll then do another false cut or shuffle and say, "Now it is 31 from the top." I'll proceed with **Daryl's Hot Shot Cut** with my left hand and flick the card, apparently out of the middle deck, into the right hand. All are typically impressed. The **Hot Shot Cut** can be found on the **DVD- Daryl's Encyclopedia of Card Sleights Volume 8**. After revealing the chosen card I'll put the selection back into the deck and secretly control it to the top of the pack.

I'll ask a different spectator to, "Touch any card.", as I spread the cards before them. I allow them to pick any card but the top card which they typically do. Once again I'll lay the card before them and turn my back so they might show it around.



FIG. 1

Whilst my back is turned I'll drop all of the cards except the top card (the first selection) into my right outside jacket or trouser pocket with my right hand. The left hand secretly dips into the left outside jacket or trouser pocket and retains the OMINOUS DECK. I'll put my right hand and card on top of the OMINOUS DECK as I turn slightly to say, "Has everyone seen your card?". If so, I'll turn again to face the audience and hold the OMINOUS DECK in dealer's position with the left hand with the first selection on top. It should now look like you are simply holding a deck of cards with your left hand. (FIG. 1)

Before taking back the second selection you should prepare for **Marlo's Tilt Move**. You will apparently place the second selection into the middle of the deck but it will end up second from the top as you square the pack. Ask someone to hold out their hand palm up. Take the OMINOUS DECK with two cards on top into your right hand (FIG. 2) and place it onto their open hand. Be careful not to flash the bottom of the deck when placing it into their open hand. Also, notice the position of all of your right hand's fingers in (FIG. 2) that should keep the cards atop the block aligned. Ask them to bring forth their other hand and completely conceal the deck.



Look at the first person who selected a card and say, *"Even though I shuffled the cards I kept track of your card. It is 8 from the top."* Pry open the spectator's hands a little, who is holding the OMINOUS DECK, and fiddle with the cards atop the deck as you pretend to be searching for the first selection. Your index and middle finger and thumb of your right hand should pull out the top card and show everyone the first selection. After removing the card, insist that the spectator holding the OMINOUS DECK keep a firm grip on the cards. Place that selection into the pocket with the balance of the deck.



As you fix your gaze on the spectator who selected the second card proclaim, *"Your card is 20 from the top."* Once again reach into the closed hands of the spectator grasping the OMINOUS DECK. As I reach inside and fumble around a little I'll say, *"Actually it is now 19 down since I removed the first selection."* As I remove the top card off the OMINOUS DECK I'll whisper to the spectator holding it, *"Hold 'em tight!"* Show the second selection around and place it into the same pocket with the balance of the deck. Your audience should be dumbfounded and impressed with your skill at this point.

Now, just when they think the trick is over, comes the best part! I'll say, *"Do any of you think it is possible that I could snatch the whole pack of cards out of their hands without anyone knowing?"* I'll say aloud to the person holding the OMINOUS DECK, *"Don't let me inside!"* I'll continue, *"What if I told you I've already done it?"* Secretly pull the cards from your pocket or make a big deal about doing so. The choice is yours. Toss the pack on the table or make a grand gesture of spreading the cards from hand to hand.

Everyone should be confused at this moment and the spectator holding the OMINOUS DECK should have a death grip on the cards. I'll add, *"That would be scary wouldn't it?"* Everyone will have their eyes affixed on the person squeezing what they think is a deck of cards. I'll say in a menacing tone, *"What if I told you that you weren't holding a deck of cards? What if I told you it was a creature, something poisonous?"* On a scale of 1-10 the tension level in the room was probably at a 2 or 3 before asking the question and quickly goes to about 6 or 7. The moment they open their hand to reveal the creature in the block their reaction and those around should hit 10!!

For this reason, you should choose your audience and helpers carefully. Be prepared for the OMINOUS DECK to go flying. It's best to keep your hands near theirs when they uncover it so it doesn't get dropped or thrown. Take it from them with your right hand and show it around and watch the reactions. This is a closer. It will be hard to top the reactions for this effect in a close-up or stand-up scenario.

FOLLOW-UP ENDING: While the audience flips out and asks their friend, *"Did you feel it change in your hand?"* I'll secretly drop the OMINOUS DECK into an empty pocket with my right hand and retrieve an **OMNI DECK** (a clear block) in my left hand and hold it from above shielding the fact that no creature is inside. I'll casually place it on the table and let people eventually notice it or I'll put it in someone's hand and say, *"Feel it."* As everyone's attention refocuses on the empty clear block I'll exclaim, *"Oh crap! It got out!!"* You may have to leave the scene at this moment because pandemonium is likely to ensue.



If you can find a fake plastic bug that matches the one in your OMINOUS DECK, then you could use some sticky stuff to make it reappear on someone like made famous in **The Web** trick or the magic phone app called **My Pet Boris**. Honestly, I don't think it is necessary. Sometimes the fear of the unknown is better.

Currently I sell the spider and scorpion version of the OMINOUS DECK on my site [diamond-jim.com](http://diamond-jim.com). There is a package deal for buying both. I also sell *Palmer Magic's* **Omni Deck** which is recommended highly whether you use it for this routine or as a stand alone effect. Be sure to check out Andy Clockwise's site to see his version called **Bug-O-Me**, that features other creepy insects and his other amazing effects.

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