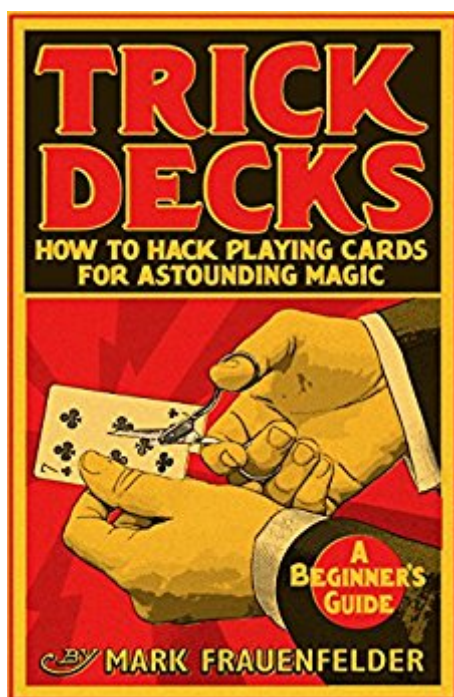


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# Trick Decks: How To Hack Playing Cards For Extraordinary Magic



## Synopsis

Trick Decks will show you how to easily make different kinds of trick card decks to perform stunning magic tricks. You can make the decks from ordinary playing cards and easy-to-find tools and materials. No special skills are required and these cards are fun to make. In this book you will learn-

- The best way to mark cards-
- How to make a stripper deck that lets you pull selected cards from the middle of the deck-
- Two ways to make one of the greatest trick decks of all time: The Invisible Deck-
- How to make the Brainwave Deck: A spectator's thought-of card is the only one face up in the deck and with a different colored back than the other cards-
- Nightmare Card: A card chosen by the spectator vanishes and reappears in your pocket

My 12-year-old daughter and I have been using these hand-made decks to delight friends and strangers. Best of all, no one has ever guessed the secret to these tricks!

## Book Information

File Size: 14111 KB

Print Length: 64 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publication Date: September 27, 2015

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B015VSFS8E

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #169,781 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #23

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Magic #57

in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Magic & Illusion #71 in Books > Humor & Entertainment > Puzzles & Games > Magic

## Customer Reviews

Mark is a generous soul, a great writer and someone who is willing to patiently stand by as you learn to do it yourself. He taught me how to upgrade my espresso machine, and he will teach you to make a stripper deck. The magic of this technique is that building a trick instead of buying one is,

pardon the phrase, magical. The anticipation is half the joy. Have fun.

I was already a fan of Mark Frauenfelder from his work for the always-entertaining BOING BOING website and WIRED magazine, so I bought this book more out of curiosity about what fresh insights he might bring to an old area of magic than in order to learn any magic tricks. Once I had read it, I was surprised by several things. First, I was amazed that at age 65 I didn't know that many of the coolest card tricks done by famous magicians (including mind-bogglers like David Blaine) were made possible by small and fairly simple alterations in the cards. The second revelation was how much fun it is to perform the card tricks Frauenfelder explains in the book. When I show them to my wife and friends, they naturally assume the decks are tricked out somehow, since they know I've never been into doing magic. But unless I explain, they usually have no idea how I do the tricks. Either way, each trick is good for both praise and laughs. My third revelation was how true Frauenfelder's major rule of performing the tricks is: "Practice a lot." It takes time to learn to be smooth at shuffling, at being able to spot or feel the small differences in the cards, and to arrange and rearrange them properly to make the tricks work. One thing I was not surprised at was how well written this book is. Frauenfelder has always been an extremely good writer with a knack for explaining things. His directions for making the trick decks and performing the tricks are all very clear and understandable. The full color illustrations and photos in the book are also excellent. If you have any interest in magic and card tricks, or if you're a fan of Mark Frauenfelder, you'll want this book.

Frauenfelder's books is a great how-to guide to making the most useful decks and cards in magic. He includes concise directions, alternative versions and killer presentations that will stun your audiences. These effects are among the most powerful ones you can perform without years of practice. With a little fun handiwork and some practice, you'll be performing miracles and possibly well on your way to inventing your own.

Mark Frauenfelder has pulled off yet another slick trick: curating some really clever card tricks into a terrific DIY book. I've had great fun with a stripper deck and I'm eager to make the other decks. The first rule of magic is never "give away" your tricks, but Mark has generously shared (for a very small fee!) some big secrets of how you can hack card decks for hours of fun!

The info in this book is adequate to explain how to make a few good trick decks pretty easily, but the

companion website has expired (at least as of April 18, 2016), and several of the illustrations in the second half of the book are missing.

Very straightforward instructions on how to set up your own trick decks. It's worth purchase just for the two most impressive tricks, the Brainwave Deck and the Invisible Deck.

Good book worthy of four stars. I knew them all though. Every good magician is probably familiar with these tricks.

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