

Hello and greetings from Steve Gore, the Happiest Magician on the Planet!

Firstly, I would like to give a huge thank you to Jirs & Kevin from Cartamundi for helping to bring this effect out, and into production!

Secondly, If you would like to perform this effect on TV, please get in touch to gain permission for TV performance rights first. Please email magic@stevegore.co.uk You are welcome to perform this effect at your live shows and events and on the internet. By purchasing this effect, you are agreeing to these terms.

I believe that Together Forever is destined to become a classic of magic. The perfect blend of a simple plot and a love theme which leaves them with an impossible souvenir, they will keep forever! But, best of all... it is simple to perform!

The history of the effect is that about 2 years ago, I had a dream, no seriously, I woke up after a dream visualising two cards like this, but one printed card. My first version actually had the cards both face up, instead of back to back. The dream was so clear, I had to find out about it. You see i haven't ever learned any fusion or anniversary waltz effects, it just came out of the blue. Firstly though I did some research ...

Fusion is a card effect in which two signed cards magically merge to form one card, which became popular when [Doc Eason](#) marketed it as **Anniversary Waltz** in 1994. There are basically three versions: the two cards become fused either back-to-face (ordinary looking card), face-to-face (double backer) or back-to-back (double facer). [Wesley James](#) claims to have developed this plot in 1965 and was performing the effect in the 1970s. James' effect is first mentioned in Peter Samelson's book, [Theatrical Close-up](#) (1984) but he did not publish the actual effect called *Forgery* until his [Stop Fooling Us!](#) lecture notes (1989).

Everything I found led me to believe that the cards were always flush and a regular card shape. So I printed some prototypes on a parlour sized card and chopped out the little squares in the diagonal corners and started playing around with it. It was getting amazing reactions. I shared the idea with friend and fellow magician Wayne Goodman, who specialises in weddings. I sent him a few samples and he loved it too. He suggested using the cross cut force with the line, "at one point in time your paths crossed, you met for the very first time" which i loved and he kindly gave me permission to use.

I kept performing it, but I wanted the cards printing properly with a pre cut out shape. I remembered meeting Jirs from Cartamundi at 'The Session' convention and I dropped him a line. They loved the idea too and were happy to work with me. Lots of tweaking took place and I then was driving Shawn Farquhar to my local magic club meeting and I mentioned the idea to him. I didn't have the cards on me to show him, I just described how the cards were, he said "are the cards facing the same way or back to back?" The thought hadn't actually occurred about having them back to back, which actually makes the handling so much better and as one card is face down and one face up, it means that one card is signed while they hold the second. Shawn kindly said I could adapt my effect this way.

You receive a box of 28 gimmicked cards, one for each time you perform it. Of course you have the option of not having the cards signed and reusing the gimmicks again, but the effect is vastly stronger with them signed and given out afterwards.

You get 4 different pairs of cards, repeated 7 times. This so you could repeat the effect to four different groups at the same event without using the same forces.

Start with one of the gimmicks in your right or left trouser pocket. It wants to be the opposite side to the hand you usually hold the deck in.

Have the orientation of the card the correct way too. As I hold the deck in my left hand, the card goes in my right pocket with the card orientated with the face card coming forward and to the right. It would go the other way around if you usually hold the deck in your right hand.

So then card would go in your left pocket with the card orientated with the face card coming forward and to the left.

Put a marker pen or sharpie in the other pocket.

Have a regular deck and find the two matching cards to the gimmick in your pocket. In this instance it's the 7 of clubs and 4 of diamonds.

Now the cards have been designed with Copag 310 red back design and faces and they match perfectly, so this is my recommendation to use. You can of course use them with a different brand of red cards if you have your favourite brand of cards which you don't want to give up and you don't want to bring out a different deck. Personally I don't see an issue with this though. So because the cards are back to back there isn't actually much of the back design for spectators to notice if you were to use a different brand of the regular cards. The faces are slightly different (especially the ace of spades!) but lay people wouldn't notice the design difference with most of the faces.

Start by saying "This is a story, all about love" we are going to find two cards that represent you both.

You can use any force you like to make the spectators choose the two cards. My favourite version for this effect as I mentioned earlier is the cross cut force. I start with the two force cards in the middle, maybe put them immediately after the two red kings, for example, so when you spread through, showing that they are all different, you don't need to remember which force cards you're using this time around.

You can then either just cut the cards to the top and the bottom or do a turnover pass or if you're a beginner, just have the cards starting on the top and bottom of the deck.

Say the line "At one point in time, your paths crossed, you met for the very first time. How long have you known each other?" This little chat about them is perfect time misdirection so they forget which was the original top card of the deck.

You hand the two cards out, remember which card is facing outwards in your pocket and retrieve that card first. Place it as far off the deck as possible, now comes the only 'move' in the routine. It is like Juan Tamariz's 'crossing the gaze' switch but you are just adding the gimmicked card to the top the deck. Whilst 'looking' for your sharpie say "I'll just let you sign your names on the cards", grab the gimmicked card in your hand, let your face realise that the pen isn't in that pocket and sigh, "wrong pocket!" Now look towards your pocket with the pen, add the gimmicked card to the top and at the same time turning the

face up duplicate card face down. I keep the deck on its side. On the instructional video of this, I am letting you see the card come out and be added to the deck on purpose. In reality turn your body to the left (if your card is in the right pocket, and visa versa if its in your left pocket) People are looking at you anyway and never notice the card in your hand.

Remove the sharpie from your other pocket, straighten the deck and have the top card signed. As the duplicate card is now face down and the other card on the gimmicked card is also face down, there's nothing to see and everything looks normal. You can even spread the cards a little if you like and then square them, apart from the gimmick obviously!

They sign the first card and before they pass the sharpie across to the other person you take the second card and say "I want you to get a mental image of you two meeting for the very first time." Slowly slide the second duplicate card underneath the gimmick, don't square it, leave it jutting out the same distance as the gimmick is. As you ask "Can you please sign your card now?" push this second card in as you turn the gimmicked card over. The other way to do this is talk to them, look them in the eyes and slowly feed this second card square with your fingers and then turn the gimmick over.

The second card is signed, personally I have the gimmicked card horizontal for the second signing but that's optional. The deck and pen both goes away and you clearly show them both sides "Here is your signed card and yours too" All the work is now done. Say "If you can each hold your cards, I'll just hold them too, look into each others eyes and say the magic word... I love you darling" (or any line you wish if this is too cheesy for you!) At that moment you let go and say "Have you noticed the cards?" "They aren't stuck together... they are just ... one ... card! Feel them! and these cards, just like you two, will be Together Forever!"

It's the perfect effect to perform for the Bride and Groom, wedding anniversary parties, any couples in love, two family members, best friends or even just to one person and have them write their partners name or a celebrity crush on the other card.

You can obviously play about with different methods, forces and when you swap the card into play, and I hope you have as much fun and reactions to this effect as I have had.

Best wishes
Steve x