

Origin and Versions of The Tantalizer Sphinx, Jinx & Other Think

Denis Behr, CardWorkshop 2020
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In the year 1926, a routine called "Der gefesselte Wunsch" was described in the German magazine *Magie*. It was included as an installment of an ongoing series called *Blütenlese im magischen Garten*, which was enclosed with the main issues. (The complete series was published as a book in 1931.) In that routine, two selections are chosen from a deck of thirty-two cards. With the rest, six piles of five cards each are made. The selections are placed on any two of those heaps. The piles are gathered, and the performer deals the deck into two piles. One is chosen by the spectator (force), and the deal repeated until only two cards remain - the selections. (This repeated dealing into two piles will be called elimination deal in this article.)

While no creator was given in *Blütenlese*, the routine was published under the same title in Ottokar Fischer's *Das Wunderbuch der Zauberkunst* in 1929. In the introductory comment, Fischer claims the effect. He repeats his claim to the effect in a letter to Victor Farelli, see below.

In May 1935, R. M. Jamison published the routine "Elimination" in *The Sphinx*. The procedure is basically the same as Fischer's to the point that only thirty-two cards are used in the effect. The fact that the earliest known American versions make use of thirty-two instead of fifty-two cards is an indication that it might have come from Europe. Jamison's presentation pivots around an apparent false dealing demonstration.

Almost the same is Victor Farelli's "Loo Lung or The Chinese Coin" from *Lend Me Your Pack*, 1936. After every deal, a different magician's choice question is asked, including the placement of a Chinese coin on a pile, hence the title. In a later edition, Farelli adds: "Shortly after the publication of the first edition of this book. I received a letter from Mr. Ottokar Fischer—the famous Austrian authority on Magic—in which he informs me that he is the originator of the little-known mathematical principle above described." (See above.)

A very similar routine is Stewart Judah's "Spectator's Choice", which was published nine months later in *The Jinx*, No. 17, February 1936. Two selections are lost the same way as in Jamison's routine with six tabled piles. But now the performer also looks through the gathered thirty-two card packet and chooses two cards which are written down. The spectator can now not only (apparently) choose which packet is used after the first deal into two piles, but also whether in the end the performer's or the spectator's cards should be the final two cards. The other two cards are never seen again. (There is a mistake in the description, but it is corrected on page 172.)

Those routines are relatively convoluted. The effect, as it is most often seen today, was contributed as "Last Chance" by L. Vosburgh Lyons to the March 1939 issue No. 54 of *The Jinx*. The card is controlled to the twenty-second position (by counting to twenty-one during spreading through the cards in groups of three and having the card replaced under those). The first deal into two piles is made. The spectator is asked to look through his pile and check for the selection, which is not there. This is repeated until the last remaining card in front of the performer is shown to be the selection.

Herbert Rungie has a variation of the effect in the later issue No. 102 of *The Jinx* in 1940, called "A Thought Ahead". The control unfortunately is reminiscent of Jamison's: Four seven-card packets are counted to the table. A selection from the remainder is placed on any pile and the other three piles are put on top of it and then on the rest, placing the card twenty-second. The trick has a second phase, which is made to look similar but is actually a key card location. The new idea here is that the card that was the original bottom card becomes the top card once another four six-card piles are counted on the table. So the new position of a card after the elimination deal is exploited in a delayed way.

Gordon Bruce Melody, in *The Dragon*, January 1943, published "The Lucky Magician". He only controls the card to the more accessible sixth position and goes into the elimination deal from there. Once only three cards are left, the selection is on top and an adjustment must be made, namely the exchange of the top two cards (or a transfer of the bottom card to the top). (This simplification was reinvented by Lennart Green.)

The eighteenth position from the bottom is the starting position in Russel "Rusduck" Duck's routine "Heaps", which he published in *The Phoenix* No. 98, January 1946. The deck is never touched by the performer. The card is controlled by having the spectator deal the whole deck minus the selection into three piles and assembling everything accordingly. The first card is then dealt face down and the next one face up and the elimination deal continued like that, always eliminating the face-up cards. (Rusduck returned to this effect a few more times, see the listing below.)

Rusduck's routine inspired the packet version "Heaps Again" by John Hamilton, also in *The Phoenix* No. 140, December 1947. Only eight cards are used for the elimination deal and the third card from the bottom can be forced with that procedure.

Finally, in 1948 the trick was published in Hugard and Braue's *The Royal Road to Card Magic* and given the name that is now often used for it: "The Tantalizer". No creator is given.

A List of published Versions

Other versions and later handlings (versions mentioned above are included in this listing) are listed in the following table. Reverse Faro eliminations are not considered in this list, but one should note that there is a strong connection to effects like Karl Fulves's "Oracle", Lin Searle's "Moracle", and full deck versions like Pit Hartling's "The Core".

1	1926	Ottokar Fischer (?)	Der gefesselte Wunsch	<i>Blütenlese im magischen Garten</i> , Beilage zur <i>Magie</i> , 1926, p. 81	see above
2	1929	Ottokar Fischer	Der gefesselte Wunsch	<i>Das Wunderbuch der Zauberkunst</i> , p. 124	see above
3	1935	R. M. Jamison	Elimination	<i>The Sphinx</i> , Vol. 34 No. 3, May 1935, p. 71	see above
4	1936	Stewart Judah	Spectator's Choice	<i>The Jinx</i> , No. 17, Feb. 1936, p. 92	see above
5	1936	Victor Farelli	Loo Lung or The Chinese Coin	<i>Lend Me Your Pack</i> , p. 44	selection as in Jamison, each time equivoque with different reasonings
6	1937	Stewart Judah	A Curious Coincidence with Cards and Pellets	<i>Subtle Problems You Will Do</i> , p. 24	eight cards written on billets, one card put in envelope, elimination deal done with billets, first side a free choice thanks to miswriting one billet, last billet matches card in envelope

7	1938	Lynn Searles	Ace Control	<i>The Card Expert</i> , p. 35	similar to Jamison's, also with false dealing presentation, referencing Jamison and Judah as inspiration, done with two red Aces and black Aces show up in the final "other" pile
8	1939	L. Vosburgh Lyons	Last Chance	<i>The Jinx</i> , No. 54, Mar. 1939, p. 387	see above
9	1939	Tom Sellers	Up and Down	<i>The Magic Wand</i> , Vol. 28 No. 181, March-May 1939, p. 87	nine cards counted off, because a nine spot happens to be on top, elimination deal with those cards until previous selection remains
10	1940	Robert Tothill	Secrets for Sale	<i>The Jinx</i> , No. 75, 1940, p. 500	as one phase of a multi-phase routine
11	1940	Herbert Rungie	A Thought Ahead	<i>The Jinx</i> , No. 102, 1940, p. 618	see above
12	1941	Hans Ernst	5 Minuten Sylvesterzauber	<i>Hokus Pokus</i> , Vol. 3 No. 12, Dec. 1941, p. 3	as part of longer routine combination to locate two cards
13	1942	Eddie Joseph	The Elimination Trick	<i>Greater Card Tricks</i> , p. 21	strange procedure in which the spectator indicates which pile has his selection every time, no actual effect
14	1943	Gordon Bruce Melody	The Lucky Magician	<i>The Dragon</i> , Vol. 12 No. 1, Jan. 1943, p. 11	see above
15	1945	G. W. Hunter	A Mental Impression	Edward Victor's <i>Further Magic of the Hands</i> , p. 79	related routine in which four selections remain in last pile
16	1946	Rusduck	Heaps	<i>The Phoenix</i> , No. 98, 4. Jan. 1946, p. 394	see above
17	1946	Bobo	Name Your Cards	Rufus Steele's <i>50 Tricks You Can Do, You Will Do, Easy to Do</i> , p. 42	exactly the same as Stewart Judah's "Spectator's Choice"
18	1947	M. Thesscroft	Basic English Mental Test	<i>The Magic Wand</i> , Vol. 36 No. 213, March 1947, p. 41	using 16 word cards and four predictions in final pile, inspired by Hunter's routine
19	1947	John Hamilton	Heaps Again	<i>The Phoenix</i> , No. 140, 12. Dec. 1947, p. 562	see above
20	1948		The Tantlizer	<i>The Royal Road to Card Magic</i> , p. 112	see above
21	1948	Glenn G. Gravatt	22 Discovery	<i>The Bat</i> , No. 53, May 1948, p. 381	short outline, no control-method given
22	1949	Paul Dienst	Aus meiner Zauberkiste	<i>Hokus Pokus</i> , Vol. 10 No. 4, p. 31	with various numbers of cards, including handling to be performed over phone

23	1949		The Reluctant Card	Rufus Steele's <i>52 Amazing Card Tricks</i> , p. 17	same as "Last Chance", no creator named
24	1949	Bill Turner	The "22" Trick	<i>The Card Wizard</i> , p. 91	discard cards dealt into hat
25	1949	Dr. A. C. Wilsmann	Die drei Wege	<i>Magie</i> , Vol. 29 No. 2, Sept. 1949, p. 20	mathematical control with cross total, elimination deal into three instead of two piles, performer eliminates two each time
26	1950	Harry Houdini & Stewart Judah	The Last Two Cards	<i>Scarne on Card Tricks</i> , p. 216	same as Jamison's "Elimination" actually, not with the additional two cards by the performer as in Judah's Jinx version
27	1950	Alfred Herremann	Your Choice, Sir	<i>The Linking Ring</i> , Vol. 30 No. 9, Nov. 1950, p. 58	variant of Judah's "Spectator's Choice" in which all four cards remain in last pile instead of only two
28	1950	J. Stewart Smith	The Survivor	<i>The Top of the Deck</i> , p. 37	somewhat convoluted placement procedure, elimination deal then with part of the deck
29	1951	Jack Yeager	Your Card!	<i>Ireland's Year Book 1951</i> , p. 5	strange procedure in which the spectator indicates which pile has his selection every time, force when three are left
30	1952	Geoffrey Scalbert	The Sunken Key Again	<i>Abracadabra</i> , Vol. 12 No. 310, 5. Jan. 1952, p. 371	Distant Key Card placement with three piles (key 32nd, 3 piles, top of center pile remembered & cut, key cut to top...)
31	1952	Rusduck	Koin Kard	<i>Genii</i> , Vol. 16 No. 9, May 1952, p. 343	dealing done as in his "Heaps", but card chosen by counting to numbers that are taken from the date on a coin
32	1953	Sam Durborow	Right, Left	<i>The Linking Ring</i> , Vol. 33 No. 7, Sep. 1953, p. 59	using any number of cards from 16 to 47, performer does not touch the cards
33	1954	Peter A. McDonald	What Colour?	<i>The Magic Wand</i> , Vol. 43 No. 241, Mar. 1954, p. 34	control with 26th Card Location
34	1955	Geoffrey Scalbert	Location Twenty-six	<i>Abracadabra</i> , Vol. 19 No. 487, 28. May 1955, p. 292	using Siamese deck and out-of-hands selection process, entertaining presentation about how difficult the chances are for finding the card each time
35	1955	Geoffrey Scalbert	Location 26: 2nd Version	<i>Abracadabra</i> , Vol. 19 No. 494, 16. July 1955, p. 406	deck cut in three piles, to card of center pile placed aside, elimination deal done into three piles and one always taken and dealt again into three piles, mate of selection remains, Si Stebbins
36	1955	Les. Vincent	Vinscalbert Location 26: Finale	<i>Abracadabra</i> , Vol. 20 No. 498, 13. Aug. 1955, p. 60	version of Scalbert's "Location 26: 2nd Version" with whole quartet showing up as finale, Si Stebbins
37	1956	Ken Beale	Pseudo Seconds	<i>Ibidem</i> , No. 5, Apr. 1956, p. 93 (of bound reprint)	first phase similar to Searles's "Ace Control", second phase employs duplicate Aces

38	1957	Frederica	Three Card Tricks - Three	<i>The Gen</i> , Vol. 13 No. 3, July 1957, p. 78	same as Jamison's "Elimination"
39	1958	Milton Kort	Gambling Expose	<i>Cardiste</i> , No. 8, May 1958, p. 3	uses Searles's "Ace Control" as part of a multi-phase gambling routine
40	1960	Syd Bergson	Homing Card Supreme	<i>The Linking Ring</i> , Vol. 40 No. 4, June 1960, p. 63	card placed at 22nd position with mathematical control in which half the deck is cut, counted, and digits added
41	1960	Micky Hades	Vortex	<i>The Linking Ring</i> , Vol. 40 No. 6, Aug. 1960, p. 74	spectator decides on left or right, then does elimination deal and always discards his non-chosen side, one duplicate so both outs are covered
42	1960	Rusduck	You Name It	<i>Hugard's Magic Monthly</i> , Vol. 18 No. 5, Oct. 1960, p. 56	his "Heaps" as a telephone trick, spectator reads off the order of one half and performer remembers and predicts the cards at the right position
43	1963	Benno Kunze	Der Pelzmantel	<i>Magische Welt</i> , Vol. 12 No. 1, Jan./Feb. 1963, p. 29	presentation suggestion
44	1963	J. Stewart Smith	The Survivor	<i>It Can Be Magic</i> , p. 29	different from 1950 version, weird construction and placement, elimination deal with small packet
45	1964	George Blake	Three Ways	<i>More Master Magic</i> , p. 40	with half deck in the final phase of a three-phase routine
46	1965	Royal H. Brin, Jr.	Twenty-Second Miracle	<i>The Linking Ring</i> , Vol. 45 No. 2, Feb. 1965, p. 73	Automatic Placement to place the thought-of selection at 22nd position
47	1966	Samuel Walker Downing	Two Observations - II	<i>The Linking Ring</i> , Vol. 46 No. 4, Apr. 1966, p. 68	card is dealt jogged in first deal-through and then glimpsed, can be divined or coded to wife, inspired by Royal H. Brin, Jr.'s version
48	1967	Harry Baron	The Million to One Mystery	<i>Magic for Beginners</i> , p. 14	easy control method with short card
49	1967	L. Gordon Plummer	27 Card Mentalism	<i>The Linking Ring</i> , Vol. 47 No. 3, Mar. 1967, p. 73	card placement via 21 Card Trick brings the card to 22nd position in a 27-card packet in third phase
50	1968	Jochen Zmeck	Rechts oder Links	<i>Magie</i> , Vol. 48 No. 12, Dec. 1968, p. 676	inspired by Scalbert's "Location Twenty-Six", one card pocketed and other three mates found, stacked deck
51	1970	Karl Ludwig Bauer	Frei gewählt	<i>Magie</i> , Vol. 50 No. 8-9, Aug./Sept. 1970, p. 215	inspired by "Der gefesselte Wunsch", placement quicker than there by making some random piles
52	1970	John Hamilton	Down & Out	<i>Pallbearers Review</i> , Vol. 5 No. 10, Aug. 1970, p. 354	spectator cuts off between 8 and 23 cards, card predicted and one of same value is on top of discard pile

53	1970	Allan Ackerman	The Programmed Deck	<i>Magic Mafia Effects</i> , 1970, p. 36	named card, memorized deck, odd-even calculations on the fly
54	1970	Robert E. Neale	More Lies	<i>Pallbearers Review</i> , 4th Folio, Winter 1970, p. 384	eight-card packet stacked for lie detector elimination deal
55	1973	Edward G. Brown	The Card Chosen by Elimination (c)	Trevor H. Hall's <i>The Card Magic of Edward G. Brown</i> , p. 190	very short outline of principle
56	1974		A Process of Elimination	Frank Garcia & George Schindler's <i>Magic with Cards</i> , p. 122	card replaced under block counted during selection process
57	1975	Ron Escott	Tamper Free	<i>Magigram</i> , Vol. 7 No. 9, May 1975, n.p.	method to control the card to the 22nd position
58	1979	Jochen Zmeck	Der gefesselte Wunsch - Plus	<i>Magische Welt</i> , Vol. 28 No. 3, May/June 1979, p. 126	same as Fischer's "Der gefesselte Wunsch", but after selections deck switched for blank cards as climax
59	1980	Louis Phillips	Count-Down Aces	<i>Genii</i> , Vol. 44 No. 2, Feb. 1980, p. 101	four Aces found, spectator and magician do elimination deal with packets and each end up with two Aces
60	1981	Günter Geis	Ein wunderbarer mathematischer Kartentrick	<i>Magie</i> , Vol. 61 No. 4, April 1981, p. 103	three selections, control with Free Cut Principle
61	1982	Magic Christian	The 22nd Card	<i>Magic Cards</i> , p. 8	easy control with short card to 22nd position
62	1982	Phil Bennett	The Fifty One to One Gambler	<i>Magigram</i> , Vol. 15 No. 1, Sept. 1982, p. 10	using Power Stack property to place selection to 22nd position with cutting and shuffling procedure
63	1983	Derek Lawrence	The 2,703 to 1 Prediction	<i>Magigram</i> , Vol. 15 No. 12, Aug. 1983, p. 798	card freely cut to in one deck matches card that is left after elimination deal in another deck, first deck is Svengali deck, second deck has thick card 22 cards away from force card
64	1984	Brother John Hamman	Second in Command	Stephen Minch's <i>Seven Deadly Miracles</i> , p. 27	three last cards are selections, placement with Free-Cut Principle, apparently false-dealing demonstration
65	1986	Never There	Luis M. Gavilondo	<i>Magigram</i> , Vol. 18 No. 12, Aug. 1986, p. 810	using a placement by R. W. Harland to get the card to 22nd position
66	1986	John Fabjance	Ups and Downs	<i>101 Professional Card Tricks - Card Tricks with Trick Cards</i> , p. 30	comedy message on 22nd card, "You are out of cards."

67	1989	Karl Fulves	The Message Deck	<i>Easy-to-Do Card Tricks for Children</i> , p. 24	message in deck predicts the card that is left in elimination deal with thirty-two cards
68	1991	Len Eljay James	Up and Down	<i>Counting On Cards</i> , p. 54	nothing special, card replaced straight under twenty-one cards
69	1991	Jon Racherbauer	column "Sticks & Stones"	<i>New Tops</i> , Vol. 31 No. 3, Mar. 1991, p. 18	triggered by Hamman's "Second in Command", a handling of Searles's "Ace Control"
70	1993	J. K. Hartman	Eight-Card Solution	<i>MAGIC</i> , Vol. 2 No. 12, Aug. 1993, p. 52	version with eight cards as telephone trick, inspired by Steinmeyer's Nine-Card Problem
71	1994	Marty Kane	Triple Nimble	<i>Precursor</i> , No. 43, Jan. 1994, p. 9	three cards selected, fourteen-card packet removed and cards found via elimination deal and down-under deal
72	1994	Marty Kane	J.E.D. Spells the Truth	<i>Precursor</i> , No. 47, Dec. 1994, p. 18	version of Hartman's "To Spell the Truth" from Card Craft, ends with elimination deal with small packet to locate card after lie spelling phase
73	1994	Karl Fulves	Sub Text	<i>Crooked Tales</i> , p. 70	as part of an unsolved problem, involving an envelope that is stuck in the deck
74	1995	Marty Kane	Magician Acquisition	<i>The Trapdoor</i> , No. 58, p. 1115	part of deck used for elimination deal, remaining card predicted
75	1996	Marty Kane	J.E.D. Spells the Truth - Twice	<i>Precursor</i> , No. 55, Aug. 1996, p. 17	see "J.E.D. Spells the Truth", version with two cards
76	1997	Alex Elmsley	Dream Trick	Download <i>Alex Elmsley Lecture</i> , published 2016	eight cards, elimination deal, top card of discard paired with remaining card, divination or number force, Tomas Blomberg has a prediction version with 48 cards and other ideas (unpublished)
77	1997	Marty Kane	Magic Day	<i>MAGIC</i> , Vol. 6 No. 7, Mar. 1997, p. 73	version with ten cards as telephone trick, inspired by Steinmeyer's Nine-Card Problem
78	1997	Marty Kane	Australian Doubles	<i>Precursor</i> , No. 58, Mar. 1997, p. 15	selections in small packet are found with elimination deal or down-under deal
79	1997	Marty Kane	Lie Speller for Magicians	<i>Precursor</i> , No. 60, Sep. 1997, p. 7	using a packet from eight to 23 cards, method to make it work with any number in that range
80	1997	Marty Kane	Pound Rebound	<i>The Trapdoor</i> , No. 64, p. 1261	story presentation, using 8 to 23 cards
81	1998	Marty Kane	Annotate on Acetate	<i>The Linking Ring</i> , Vol. 78 No. 6, June 1998, p. 85	prediction effect in which one red Ace has to be forced with a two-way force, the elimination deal is used after the spectator has cut of a packet of the range eight to 23 cards
82	1998	Marty Kane	North Pole Rigmarole	<i>Precursor</i> , No. 67, Dec. 1998, p. 12	two-way out prediction, and force with elimination deal after the spectator has cut of a packet of the range eight to 23 cards

83	1998	Marty Kane	Spectator's Simplex Lie Speller	<i>The Trapdoor</i> , No. 68, p. 1416	eighth card forced, spectator spells any card in face-up pile, those cards used in face-up/down elimination deal
84	1999	Rudolf Braunmüller	Die Zufallsvorhersage	<i>Intermagic</i> , Vol. 23 No. 2, p. 60	32 symbol-cards, spectator cuts off packet and deals, finals card predicted, one duplicate of prediction
85	2000	Erhard Liebenow	Alternative Voraussage	<i>Intermagic</i> , Vol. 24 No. 4/5, p. 180	spectator cuts off pile and does tantalizer deal, last card predicted
86	2000	Marty Kane	Spelled It and Dealt It	<i>Precursor</i> , No. 72, Jan. 2000, p. 16	another packet revelation using spelling and the elimination deal
87	2000	Lennart Green	One in Fifty-Two Bet	Video <i>Green Magic Vol. 3</i>	
88	2000	Stewart James	The Tothill Influence	Allan Slaight's <i>The James File Vol. 2</i> , p. 2230	thoughts on Tothill's "Secrets for Sale"
89	2001	Simon Aronson	Divide and Conquer	<i>Try the Impossible</i> , p. 20	using the UnDo Influence principle to control two selections to positions so they are the last cards after elimination deal, optional Ace kicker on top of the left-over piles
90	2002	Ken Beale	Beale's Treat	<i>Beyond</i> , No. 2, p. 32, in <i>Aziz & Beyond</i>	inspired by Rusduck's "Heaps", from a 1961 letter (see p. 28), as a number force in which after two deals the top two cards are added up
91	2002	Lewis Jones	The 22nd card	<i>Encyclopedia of Impromptu Card Forces</i> , p. 61	breaking up the first full-deck deal into two bridge-hand deals
92	2002	Marty Kane	Dealing with an Old Codger	<i>Precursor</i> , No. 81, Feb. 2002, p. 3	telephone trick with Ace through King involving down-under deal and elimination deal, last two values divined
93	2002	Marty Kane	Halve It Your Way	Steve Beam's <i>Semi-Automatic Card Tricks Vol. 4</i> , p. 67	X-Equivoque, spectator apparently chooses which pile to eliminate very time but has to make a decision according to his selection (color, suits, etc.) which was glimpsed
94	2002	Darwin Ortiz	Maximum Risk	<i>Scams & Fantasies with Cards</i> , p. 80	memorized deck, just used to place the card 22nd
95	2002	Jason England	Maximum Risk - Impromptu Version	<i>Scams & Fantasies with Cards</i> , p. 84	without memorized deck
96	2003	Marty Kane	Royal Flush High Jinx	<i>Precursor</i> , No. 87, Aug. 2003, p. 5	Royal Flush found, first card with elimination deal, all other cards blank
97	2003	Steve Charney	Twenty-Two Skidoo	<i>Hocus Jokus - How to do Funny Magic</i> , p. 41	simple key placement, strange presentation in which spectator is touched with a feather

98	2004	Marty Kane	Drink Think	<i>Precursor</i> , No. 89, Jan. 2004, p. 3	mate of prediction shows up with elimination deal
99	2004	Lennart Green	Plus Five	<i>IMS Vol. 3 - Ultra Card Magic</i> (Video)	card starts at sixth position
100	2005	Gary Plants	Maximum Risk Simplified	<i>MAGIC</i> , Vol. 14 No. 9, May 2005, p. 81	method to place the selection at the 22nd position
101	2005	Marty Kane	FourKing Over Weigh Too Much	<i>Precursor</i> , No. 96, June 2005, p. 7	four spectators have a small packet and end up with a King each after elimination deal, verbal magic
102	2006	Terry Wenham	The "You Must Be Kidding" Gamble	<i>"Elegant" and Other Things of Beauty</i> , p. 76	using Automatic Placement to place the selection to the 22nd position
103	2006	Woody Aragon	Omega Equals Alpha	Steve Beam's <i>Semi-Automatic Card Tricks Vol. 6</i> , p. 206	using Automatic Placement to place the selection to the 22nd position
104	2006	Claude Imperiale	The Tarantulizer	Steve Beam's <i>Semi-Automatic Card Tricks Vol. 7</i> , p. 158	controlling the card to the third position, then starting the deal always at yourself, adjustment with last card
105	2006	Claude Imperiale	Grab It Before They Do	Steve Beam's <i>Semi-Automatic Card Tricks Vol. 7</i> , p. 159	remaining card is not the selection, it is in the wallet instead, bet theme
106	2006	Steve Beam	The Flasher	Steve Beam's <i>Semi-Automatic Card Tricks Vol. 7</i> , p. 160	spectator apparently sees card dealt into wrong pile near the end, sucker
107	2007	Denis Behr	"The Tantalizer" to Stack	<i>Handcrafted Card Magic</i> , p. 43	retains a full deck stack
108	2007	Joshua Jay	Big Deal	Penguin Instant Download	kicker with various gambling hands in the discard piles
109	2007	J. K. Hartman	He Whose Half Lasts	<i>Card Dupery</i> , p. 346	card chosen from another deck located with uneven/random elimination dealing (done by performer) in second deck, Marty Kane's X-Equivoque from "Halve It Your Way" to apparently chose piles to eliminate
110	2008	R. Paul Wilson	Tantalizer Too	DVD <i>Extreme Possibilities Vol. 2</i>	kicker on dealt discard piles
111	2008	Lennart Green	The Bloodhound	<i>The Green Northern Lights Magic</i> , p. 29	elimination deal with thirty-two cards, a face-up card and a selection remain in last pile, cutting allowed

112	2008	Lennart Green	E-Force & E-Deals	<i>The Green Northern Lights Magic</i> , p. 46	short discussion of elimination deals, including "Turbo-Versions" (dealing more cards at a time)
113	2008	Denis Behr	Als Kontrolle für den Tantalizer	<i>Magische Welt</i> , Vol. 57 No. 5, Sep./Oct. 2008, p. 271	handling to use the Automatic Placement to control the card to 22nd position
114	2009	Chris "Doc" Dixon	Tantalizer Lives!	<i>MonkeyShines Vol. 1</i> , p. 23	Spectator's pile is reduced to one via elimination deal, he wins money every time, but loses all on last card
115	2010	Benjamin Earl	How to Fool a Physicist	<i>How to Fool a Physicist</i> , p. 4	selection simply starts on top, when three cards are shown they are shown and none is the selection, it still ends up as final card and is also predicted
116	2010	Steve Beam & Marty Kane	The Tranquilizer	Steve Beam's <i>Semi-Automatic Card Tricks Vol. 8</i> , p. 119	inspired by Tantalizer but actually uses reverse faros (bluff, card remains on top) with half the deck
117	2010	Lewis Jones	Polygram	Steve Beam's <i>Semi-Automatic Card Tricks Vol. 8</i> , p. 145	card starts second from bottom, spectator cuts off some cards and does elimination deal with the rest, selection followed by sight, Marty Kane's X-Equivoque
118	2010	Ramón Riobóo	Creating a Rift	Steve Beam's <i>Semi-Automatic Card Tricks Vol. 8</i> , p. 243	elimination deal with a third of the deck, mate of prediction is final card
119	2010	Ramón Riobóo	Separation Anxiety	Steve Beam's <i>Semi-Automatic Card Tricks Vol. 8</i> , p. 245	open prediction made, elimination deal with half the deck and discard pile dealt face up
120	2010	Norman Beck	column "I've Been Thinkin'"	<i>M-U-M</i> , Vol. 99 No. 11, Apr. 2010, p. 78	using a one-way forcing deck for selection which is switched before replacement for a deck with duplicates at correct position for elimination deal
121	2011	Emanuele Biscosi	Le Quattro Stagioni	<i>Faro Al Dente</i> , p. 20	elimination deal until four cards remain: the four-of-a-kind of the selection, rest shown in New Deck Order
122	2011	Harry Lorayne	What Are The Odds? (A Tantalizer Treatise)	<i>Special Effects</i> , p. 4	
123	2011	Rachel Colombini	Vantage Point	Aldo Colombini's <i>The Magic of Rachel Colombini</i> , p. 11	as second part of two-phase routine
124	2012	Vincent Hedan	First Chance	<i>Mnemosyne</i> , e-book, p.	getting into stack, as in Denis Behr's application
125	2012	Darwin Ortiz	Calculated Risk	<i>Lessons in Card Mastery</i> , p. 179	named card, memorized deck, placement management to get it to 22nd position

126	2012	Jason England	Risky Business	<i>Texas on a Saturday Night</i> , p. 14	
127	2013	R. Paul Wilson	The Tantalizer Too	<i>The Magic Apple Live!</i> , p. 124	last three cards flashed and selection is not among them, but still ends up as remaining card after final deal
128	2013	Michael "Six" Muldoon	Royal Tantalizer	DVD <i>6 by Six</i>	Royal Flush kicker on the eliminated piles
129	2013	Tyler Wilson	Blank Tantalizer	[posted on TheSecondDeal website]	deck is shown blank on both sides, card named, elimination deal, final card has named card on its face, variation by Tomas Blomberg, quartets in order with rotating suits
130	2014	Paco Nagata	The Final 3	<i>The Passion of an Amateur Card Magician</i> , e-book, p. 259	three cards selected and remain as last three cards, placement by counting pile during the losing process
131	2014	Michael Lam	草泥马机率 (WTF Possibility)	实战魔术 <i>Real Magic</i> , p. 21	with New Deck Order Finale
132	2014	Lars La Ville & Michael Frederiksen	Jeg har styr på det	DVD <i>Kortnørdre Vol. 1</i>	three mates spelled to as kicker, then Royal Flush dealt in five-handed poker deal
133	2014	Woody Aragon	Omega = Alpha	Download <i>Omega = Alpha</i>	using Automatic Placement to place the selection to the 22nd position
134	2015	Woody Aragon	Siamesa Tantalizer	[unpublished]	shown to me at FFFF 2015 (see also Scalbert's "Location Twenty-six")
135	2015	Lars La Ville	Royal Flush & Royal Flush 2	DVD <i>Magiske Øjeblikke</i>	Royal Flush kicker
136	2016	Helder Guimarães	The Narrative of Actions	<i>Genii</i> , Vol. 79 No. 10, Oct. 2016, p. 38	as as an example in a mostly theoretical essay
137	2016	Lars La Ville	The Ultimate Tantalizer	Download <i>The Ultimate Tantalizer</i>	elimination process mixed up with some single card eliminations by spectator, two four-of-a-kinds show up after the location with counting and spelling, different presentations
138	2016	Werner Miller	À la Tantalizer	<i>Sub Rosa Vol. 11</i> , ebook, p. 22	"Do as I Do" type coincidence trick with packets of ESP cards and elimination deal
139	2017	Bob Farmer	Tarodiction Tantalizer	<i>The Bammo Tarodiction Toolbox</i> , Addendum #8, p. 1	shuffled deck, with new deck order finale
140	2017	Liam Montier	The Last to Turn Up	<i>Any Shuffled Deck</i> , DVD	packet version of location

141	2018	Wesley James	Her Last Chance to Deal with the Tantalizer	<i>It's Your Deal</i> , ebook, p. 272	first deal eliminated by cut, palmed selection added to top and false dealing used, partial stack can be preserved
142	2018	Norman Beck	Norman Beck's Tantalizer	Michael Close's <i>Paradigm Shift Vol. 1</i> , p. 83	same as in <i>M-U-M</i> , 2010
143	2018	Michael Close	How Did I Screw That Up?	<i>Paradigm Shift Vol. 1</i> , p. 86	wrong card at the end, but rest of deck is one-way forcing deck of selection, gag, placement with bottom deal)
144	2018	Michael Close	The Royal Tantalizer	<i>Paradigm Shift Vol. 1</i> , p. 89	selection found, top card of all other piles are Royal Flush, using six bottom deals to place cards
145	2018	Michael Close	End Game	<i>Paradigm Shift Vol. 1</i> , p. 91	using Aronson Stack, incorporating some divinations after dealing sequences with adjusted calculations and two fours-of-a-kind
146	2018	Cameron Francis	Seven Variations of "The Tantalizer"	<i>Tantalized</i> , ebook	adding mostly kickers like four-of-a-kind revelations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exhausted - Exhausted Aces - Exhausted Mates - A Tantalizing Sandwich - A Tantalizing Destiny - A Tantalizing Match - The Almost Traditional tantalizer
147	2019	Lars La Ville	4 of a Kind Tantalizer	<i>All Spades</i> , Download	with four-of-a-kind production
148	2019	Allan Ackerman	The Thought Algorithm	<i>Card Theater</i> , p. 34	named card, placed while removing the Joker (easiest with cyclical stack), the spectator follows written instructions
149	2019	Michael Powers	Two Way Split	<i>Tesseract</i> , p. 223	using Scalbert's placement, see above
150	2019	Helder Guimarães	Synchronicity	<i>Secret Language - Vol. 1</i> , p. 432	spectator finds a card by doing a half-deck elimination deal, stack built via deal
151	2019	Gary Plants	[Untitled Variation]	private correspondence	card controlled to 32. position, performer and spectator alternate in dealing
152	2020	Woody Aragon	The EP Principle	Download <i>The EP Principle</i>	same as his Omega = Alpha from 2014
153	2021	Sylvain Juzan	Tantalean Punishments	<i>Every Card You Take</i> , p. 37	four selections, first found with Tantalizer deal, other three cards spelled to

Addendum: The Tantalizer with any named card and no adjustments (Denis Behr, Tomas Blomberg, Marc Haufer)

Tomas Blomberg and I worked out a rather complicated formula in 2010. However Marc Haufer great simplified it in 2021 and now it can actually be done in the head, if one wanted to. Below is Marc's procedure.

To end up with a named card, one can vary the dealing procedure and start the deal on the spectator on some times and other times at the performer. In the following:

1: Deal starts at the spectator the normal way

0: Deal starts at the performer

One has to deal six times. So a dealing procedure would be a sextuplet like 010011. The normal Tantalizer, in which the deal always starts at the spectator and in which the selection starts at 22nd position, thus has the dealing pattern 111111.

Here is how to calculate the dealing pattern for any card which starts at position x:

- 1) Calculate $x-1$
- 2) Express binary in 6 digits (add zeros to front) and reverse the digits
- 3) XOR with 010001 (basically: flip the second and sixth digit)
- 4) If the third digit is 1, then flip the fourth digit as well

(In case you don't know about XOR-ing, see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exclusive_or)

Let's have the example $x=22$ and see whether the known dealing pattern comes out:

22 -> 21 -> 010101 ->

101010 -> 111111

And indeed it does. Here are some more examples:

3 -> 2 -> 000010 ->

010000 -> 000001

34 -> 33 -> 100001 ->

100001 -> 110000

39 -> 38 -> 100110 ->

011001 -> 001100