

# The Elknase Card System

**Description:** Card System similar to Si Stebbins stack but with improved visual disguise. From a known key card (bottom card) the top card is quickly calculated. Other positions are only a matter of practice and one may be astounded how easy it is to calculate any card at any position.

**Thanks:** A huge thanks goes to Swiss professional Magician Roberto Giobbi. With his help I could fine-tune some points and make the system what it is today. Thanks also goes to Si Stebbins, for all the inspiration he gave me with his stack. Thanks to Edward Stoddard for his wonderful japanese soroban theory, which was the key inspiration to the value complements of the coding system.

## How to learn the system

First of all, make sure you understand the basic system. It's always the basic system where you do the calculations. Therefore, it is important to grasp it well. After all, learn the coding system.

Start right of by assembling the basic system a few times ...

### The Basic System: Beginning with **K♣** ...

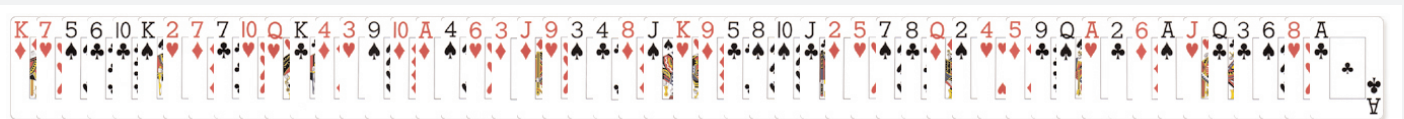
- **CHaSeD** order (♣ ♥ ♠ ♦)
- ♣ = +3, ♥ = +2, ♠ = +1, ♦ = +4



... and here is the encoding / decoding mechanism ...

### The Coding System:

- Switch odd values of suits ♥♦ from 1-9 complement values to 10 ...  
1→9, 3→7, 5→5, 7→3, 9→1
- Switch suits for K,Q,J,A & 2,4,6,8: ♣ → ♦, ♦ → ♣, ♠ → ♥, ♥ → ♠



... make sure to stick with the correct order of application ...

### The Coding Order Rule:

- Encoding: a then b**  
**Decoding: b then a**

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Now, you are ready to calculate the top card ...

## Calculating the top card: (peek the bottom card first ;)

### 1. Designate the bottom card:

- Apply decoding **b** (if appropriate)
- Apply decoding **a** (if appropriate)

### 2. Designate the top card:

- **Top card** = bottom card (value) + value of next card in CHaSeD order  
(♣ = +3, ♥ = +2, ♠ = +1, ♦ = +4)
- Apply **decoding order** (if appropriate)

**Example 1:** Bottom Card: **7♦** ; Current Suit: ♦ → Next Suit in **CHaSeD** order: ♣

**7♦** → **3♦** (basic system) →  $3 + 4(\text{♦} = +4) = 7$  → **7♣** → **7♣** (encoding)

**Example 2:** Bottom Card: **J♦** ; Current Suit: ♣ → Next Suit in **CHaSeD** order: ♥

**J♦** → **J♣** (basic system) →  $11 + 3(\text{♣} = +3) = 14 = (14 - 13) = 1$  → **A♥** → **9♥** (encoding)

**Example 3:** Bottom Card: **2♠** ; Current Suit: ♥ → Next Suit in **CHaSeD** order: ♠

**2♠** → **2♥** (basic system) →  $2 + 2(\text{♥} = +2) = 4$  → **4♠** → **4♥** (encoding)

**Example 4:** Bottom Card: **A♣** ; Current Suit: ♦ → Next Suit in **CHaSeD** order: ♣

**A♣** → **A♦** → **9♦** (basic system) →  $9 + 4(\text{♦} = +4) = 13$  → **K♦** → **K♣** (encoding)

**Example 5:** Bottom Card: **10♠** ; Current Suit: ♠ → Next Suit in **CHaSeD** order: ♦

**10♠** → **10♠** (basic system) →  $10 + 1(\text{♠} = +1) = 11$  → **J♦** → **J♣** (encoding)

**Example 6:** Bottom Card: **Q♣** ; Current Suit: ♦ → Next Suit in **CHaSeD** order: ♣

**Q♣** → **Q♦** (basic system) →  $12 + 4(\text{♦} = +4) = (16 - 13) = 3$  → **3♣** → **3♣** (encoding)

**Example 7:** Bottom Card: **4♦** ; Current Suit: ♣ → Next Suit in **CHaSeD** order: ♥

**4♦** → **4♣** (basic system) →  $4 + 3(\text{♣} = +3) = 7$  → **7♥** → **3♥** (encoding)

**Example 8:** Bottom Card: **J♥** ; Current Suit: ♠ → Next Suit in **CHaSeD** order: ♦

**J♥** → **J♠** (basic system) →  $11 + 1(\text{♠} = +1) = 12$  → **Q♦** → **Q♣** (encoding)

**Example 9:** Bottom Card: **9♠** ; Current Suit: ♠ → Next Suit in **CHaSeD** order: ♦

**9♠** → **9♠** (basic system) →  $9 + 1(\text{♠} = +1) = 10$  → **10♦** → **10♦** (encoding)

**Example 10:** Bottom Card: **3♥** ; Current Suit: ♥ → Next Suit in **CHaSeD** order: ♠

**3♥** → **7♥** (basic system) →  $7 + 2(\text{♥} = +2) = 9$  → **9♠** → **9♠** (encoding)

**Example 11:** Bottom Card: **A♠** ; Current Suit: ♥ → Next Suit in **CHaSeD** order: ♠

**A♠** → **A♥** → **9♥** (basic system) →  $9 + 2(\text{♥} = +2) = 11$  → **J♠** → **J♥** (encoding)

**Example 12:** Bottom Card: **9♦** ; Current Suit: ♦ → Next Suit in **CHaSeD** order: ♣

**9♦** → **A♦** (basic system) →  $1 + 4(\text{♦} = +4) = 5$  → **5♣** → **5♣** (encoding)

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And now some decent features of the system ...

## System Features I

- If the bottom card is known, the 4th card from top equals always bottom card value - 3, the 8th card from top equals bottom card value - 6 ( $2x - 3$ ), etc ...

**Rule:** card value + 4 cards = card value - 3 of basic system

**Example:** (bottom card: **K♠**)

**K♠** → **K♥** (basic system) → 4 cards →  $13 - 3 = 10$  → **10♥** → **10♥** (encoding)

**K♠** → **K♥** (basic system) → 8 cards →  $13 + (2x - 3) = 13 - 6 = 7$  → **7♥** → **3♥** (encoding)

**Example:** (bottom card: **4♠**)

**4♠** → **4♥** (basic system) → 12 cards →  $4 + (3x - 3) = 4 - 9$

**Rule:** If the subtrahend (9) is greater than minuend (4) → add 13 to the minuend ...

→ add 13 to minuend →  $(4+13) - 9 = 17 - 9 = 8$  → **8♥** → **8♠** (encoding)

... and some more ...

## System Features II

- **Shortcut 1:** If the bottom card is known, the 16th card from top equals always bottom card value + 1

**Rule:** card value + 16 cards = card value + 1 of basic system

**Example:** (bottom card: **K♥**)

**K♥** → **K♠** (basic system) → 16 cards →  $13 + 1 = 14 = (14 - 13) = 1$  → **A♥** → **9♥** (encoding)

**Rule:** If the result (14) is greater than 13 → subtract 13 from result ...

- **Shortcut 2:** If the bottom card is known, the 36th card from top equals always bottom card value - 1

**Rule:** card value + 36 cards = card value - 1 of basic system

**Example:** (bottom card: **K♥**)

**K♥** → **K♠** (basic system) → 36 cards →  $13 - 1 = 12$  → **Q♠** → **Q♥** (encoding)

# The Elknase Card System

Positions other than simple ones like 1th, 4th, 16th or 36th are mastered with some practice. Mind the important concept of the nearest position to the desired one. That is, you get the result by applying the shortcuts to adjust +1 or -1. If you cannot apply the shortcuts, the position is always divisible by 4 ...

## Calculating Positions I

(peek the bottom card ;)

**Example:** What card is 14th from top?

(bottom card: **A♣**)

### 1. Designate the bottom card:

- Apply decoding **b** (if appropriate)
- Apply decoding **a** (if appropriate)

Therefore, the bottom card is: **A♣** → **A♦** → **9♦**

### 2. Designate nearest position divisible by 4:

- $14 / 4 = 3$  (remainder 2) ... therefore, the nearest position is:  $4 \times 3 = 12$  [factor: 3, remainder: 2]
- Designate card at 12th position:  
 $9♦ = 9 - (\text{factor} \times 3) = 0 \rightarrow 13 \rightarrow \mathbf{K♦}$

If the subtrahend is greater than minuend → add 13 to the minuend ...

**Example:** (bottom card: **4♥**)

$4♥ \rightarrow 4 + 13 = 17 - (\text{factor} \times 3) = 17 - (3 \times 3) = 8 \rightarrow \mathbf{8♥}$

### 3. Calculate the remainder difference:

- Remainder (2) → 2 cards (calculated by **CHaSeD** order)
  - 1th card:  $\mathbf{K♦} = 13 (=0) + 4 (\text{♦} = +4) = 0 + 4 = 4 \rightarrow \mathbf{4♣}$  [remainder (1)]
  - 2th card:  $\mathbf{4♣} = 4 + 3 (\text{♣} = +3) = 7 \rightarrow \mathbf{7♥}$  [remainder (0)]
  - Encoding:  $\mathbf{7♥} \rightarrow \mathbf{3♥}$

... and the reversion ...

## Calculating Positions II

(peek the bottom card ;)

**Example:** What position from top is the **A♥** ?

(bottom card: **A♣**)

### 1. Designate the top card:

- Apply decoding **b** (if appropriate)
- Apply decoding **a** (if appropriate)

Therefore, the top card is: **A♥** → **A♠**

### 2. Designate the bottom card:

- Apply decoding **b** (if appropriate)
- Apply decoding **a** (if appropriate)

Therefore, the bottom card is: **A♣** → **A♦** → **9♦**

### 3. Designate number of cards to target suit:

- **9♦** → 3 cards to desired suit **♠** → **9♦** → **K♣** → **3♥** → **5♠**

→ nearest card value in desired suit: **5♠**

→ number of cards to target suit: **3** → [3 cards](#)

### 4. Designate nearest position divisible by 3:

- **5♠** to **A♠** →  $5 - (1 \times 3) = 2$  → **2♠** → nearest position factor: **1**

→ multiply position factor by 4:  $1 \times 4 = 4$  → [4 cards](#)

In order to calculate the number of cards from **2♠** to **A♠**, apply **shortcut 2** :

→ **2♠** to **A♠** → [36 cards](#)

### 5. Add-up:

- [3 cards](#) + [4 cards](#) + [36 cards](#) = **43 cards**

Therefore, the **A♥** is the 43th card from top.

**Terms Of Use:** This card system is freeware and may be modified to fit individual needs. I wish you plenty of great performances with happy and astonished spectators. Please send me an email and let me know if you like the system. Ideas, corrections and inspirations are always welcome. Enjoy and have fun!

With Best Regards, Dominic Dietiker