21-Card Magic Trick

In this trick, you will guess a card that a spectator chooses in their mind.

Lay out a packet of 21 different playing cards face up. Ask the spectator to choose one of the cards in his or her mind.

Deal the cards into three face up piles - always left to right. The figure displays the correct order.

Ask the spectator which pile his or her card is in. As you stack the cards to deal them again, stack the 7-card pile that contains the spectator's card between the other two piles. As an example, if the spectator's card is in the left pile, place the left pile between the other two, with the center pile at the bottom, and the right pile on the top (or vice versa).

Repeat this process: Deal the cards into three face-up piles in the same left to right order. Have the spectator identify the pile his or her
card is in and again place the pile containing the card between the other two piles as you stack them.

Repeat this process a third time.

After this third time, the spectator's card will be the middle card in the 21-card stack.

Display the 11th card in the stack to the spectator, announcing that this is the card.

[Adapted from the description of the 9-card version of this trick at http://magic.about.com/od/libraryofsimpletricks/ss/9cardtrick.htm.]