BLIND MAN’S BUFF (Paul Hyland)

Set-up:
Blank-faced deck. One card with a dot at top middle. Another card with two dots at top middle.
Blank card on top of deck, followed by two-dot card, blank, one-dot card. Jokers on the bottom (look normal and allow you to orientate the deck).

Performance:
Discard the Jokers. Shuffle, retaining top stock.
“I assume that most of you can see… the other day I was showing a card trick to a blind man. He could only touch and count the cards, but couldn’t tell that one was different from the other. He had to choose one in his mind. Would you do that?”

“I mixed them up – false shuffle again and false cut – not that it made any difference to him. I said, You can feel and count. If your card is a three, deal three cards to the table”
(Deal three cards in a pile and drop the deck on top – now the deck is set up for the trick). Now you take the cards and play his part.
“Deal the value down [A-K, 1-13] while my back is turned – those who can see will make sure I don’t cheat – and silently so I can’t hear how many you deal. Done that? Thank you. Now the suit. If your chosen card is a Spade, put one card on the table. Silently so I have no clue. If it’s a Heart deal two. If it’s a Club, deal three. If it’s a Diamond deal four. Put the rest of the cards on top and give the deck to me.
Now I don’t know and you don’t know where your card is, so I can mix the cards as much as I like.” But just make a careless false cut. “What difference does it make? But you have touched the cards with your thought and focused on the suit and value in the best way you can.”

Count from the bottom. The number below the one-dot card tells you the suit. The number between the one-dot and the two-dot cards tell you the value. Carry on at least half way. Upjog any card and lay it on the table. Take their hand, as if they were blind, and put their finger on the card. “Would you believe it if I told you your card was the Six of Clubs? Right?” Applause.
It doesn’t matter to you what the card looks like. Turn it over. And the rest are blank too.