

Shuffle Up and Deal

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Based on a puzzle by Dave Thaler

As hinted at by the puzzle description, the order of the cards as presented doesn't matter. So there must be some other way to look at the cards such that they make sense. Order the suits in bridge order (which is the same as alphabetically – clubs, diamonds, hearts, spades) and then order the cards within each suit numerically from deuce to ace. If you then flip them all over, you'll see the following pattern: eight cards in one of two colors, followed by 1 card in a third color, then eight more cards in the first two colors, then 1 card in the third color, etc. This should be familiar as the "eight bits per ASCII character plus one stop bit" pattern used by most serial port connections (including modems). Arranging into rows of nine and appending the two jokers such that they finish the pattern makes it easy to translate into ASCII:

2♣	3♣	4♣	5♣	6♣	7♣	8♣	9♣	10♣	= 01010010 = R
J♣	Q♣	K♣	A♣	2♦	3♦	4♦	5♦	6♦	= 01100101 = e
7♦	8♦	9♦	10♦	J♦	Q♦	K♦	A♦	2♥	= 01100100 = d
3♥	4♥	5♥	6♥	7♥	8♥	9♥	10♥	J♥	= 01010011 = S
Q♥	K♥	A♥	2♠	3♠	4♠	5♠	6♠	7♠	= 01101111 = o
8♠	9♠	10♠	J♠	Q♠	K♠	A♠	Joker	Joker	= 01111000 = x

The answer is **RED SOX**.