MAGIC



The Professional Touch

Introduced by John Salisse,
Secretary of the Magic Circle

Macmillan Software



Author
Peter Eldin

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Magic has been performed for at least four thousand years. There is a record on a papyrus in a Berlin museum which relates the activities of a magician called Dedi as he entertained those who were building the pyramids in Egypt. Naturally, since Dedi's performance four thousand years ago there have been enormous changes in both style and methods of magic, and it has become an absorbing hobby for thousands of people all over the world.

Great stars have emerged: Chung Ling Soo who died while catching a bullet at the Wood Green Empire in 1918; Horace Goldin who travelled with a whole train-load of illusions, assistants, animals and scenery; Houdini, who, sixty years after his death, is still a household name. There was David Nixon who had such a warm personality and was one of the first magicians ever to have a long series on television.

Today, we are fortunate to have Paul Daniels whose enthusiastic approach and brilliant magic provide such wonderful entertainment.

Occasionally on television we have the pleasure of seeing some of the American greats such as David Copperfield, who vanished a jet aeroplane in the middle of an airfield, and Doug Henning who floats across the stage.

These stars must all have had in common every magician's experience of starting with some small trick which they found baffled and amused their friends. From there they developed a range of tricks, new ideas and different presentations which have enabled them to become entertainers.

This superb book by Peter Eldin, combined with a new approach to learning magic through software, will give many people the chance to experience that thrill and excitement of being able to mystify friends through the medium of magic. Who knows, perhaps, one day they too may become stars.

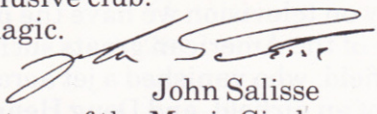
One of the most important aspects you will learn from *The Professional Touch* is that the secret of magic is not the vital issue. Of course, everybody wants to know how the trick is done, but nobody wants to read a detective story which begins by revealing who did the murder. So, you must never tell your audience the way you do the trick. Let me stress that the real secret of magic is not how the trick works, but how well it is presented.

The Magic Circle was formed in 1905. Its motto is *Indocilis Privata Loqui* (not apt to disclose secrets).

That motto of more than eighty years' standing still applies and magicians everywhere keep their secrets to themselves. When you learn from this book and software the secrets of magic, remember that you must keep them to yourself. They are not yours to give away.

Now you have *The Professional Touch* to learn how to present magic and entertain your friends. You may also find that you become absorbed in a fascinating hobby enjoyed by so many people around the world. If you remember this, and if you work hard at your magic and the presentation of your magic, then it is my hope that one day I will have the pleasure of welcoming you to the Magic Circle, the world's most exclusive club.

I wish you good luck in magic.



John Salisse
Secretary of the Magic Circle



Magic can be performed in almost any situation but the style of trick may be different in each case to suit the surroundings. Tricks with small objects such as coins or dice are not usually suitable for a stage show in a theatre because the audience will not be able to see what you are doing. On the other hand it is not very practical to perform tricks with large apparatus or live animals in someone's sitting room.

Many types of magic can be performed on the theatre stage. The magician on this page is doing the classic *Cup and Balls* trick – making three balls appear as if from nowhere.

Magic performed with the spectators near to the magician is called 'close-up magic'. This type of magic is becoming very popular in restaurants, where the diners can watch their own private magic show at their table after a satisfying meal. It is a good idea for every magician to know some close-up tricks for you never know when someone may ask you to show them a trick.

A number of magicians perform regularly on television. All types of magic can be performed on television, as the camera can come in close for close-up tricks or move further away if the trick takes up a lot of room.

Tricks can be performed with almost anything–eggs, coins, flags, people–even elephants.

There are literally thousands of tricks that can be performed with just a pack of playing cards, and whole books have been written on the subject. This wide variety is one reason why magic has remained popular for over 4000 years.





There are many tricks that are so well liked that they have become classics of the magical art. They are as popular today as they were when they were first invented – perhaps hundreds or even thousands of years ago.

Although many of the classic tricks are quite old they still baffle people because magicians do not give away their secrets. Remember this as you learn the tricks in this book and never tell anyone how they are done.

Possibly the most famous of all the classics of magic is the *Cups and Balls* in which a ball or several balls appear or disappear beneath three cups. This trick is over four thousand years old, and is still performed by magicians all over the world.

In the *Chinese Linking Rings* several solid metal hoops link themselves together and then unlink in an inexplicable manner. This trick was invented in China and was featured in Chung Ling Soo's act in the early 1900s.

With just a simple black bag and an ordinary egg magicians have entertained audiences with the *Egg Bag* for many centuries. The egg appears in the bag and then disappears – a simple idea but one which never fails to capture the audience's imagination.

The English magician Isaac Fawkes who lived some two hundred years ago was famous for his version of the *Egg Bag*.

Although invented only sixty years ago the illusion of *Sawing a Woman in Half* has become so popular that it can justifiably be classed as one of the classics of magic.

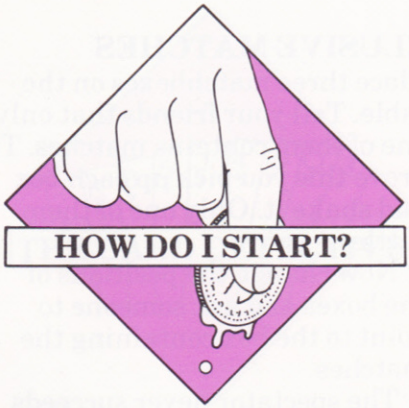
Most people associate a magician with the *Production of a Rabbit from a Top Hat*. Unfortunately it is not performed very often but still proves to be extremely popular.

There are several card tricks that can be regarded as classics but possibly the one with the greatest claim to fame is the *Rising Cards*. In this trick, cards selected by members of the audience and then shuffled back into the pack, rise out of the pack apparently of their own accord. The American magician Howard Thurston first became famous by performing this trick.

A spectacular classic of magic is the *Levitation of a Person* in mid-air with no visible means of support. The French magician Robert Houdin was one of the first magicians to perform this trick.



Harry Houdini – one of the world's greatest ever magicians, who specialised in escape tricks



The first question that anyone who wants to become a magician asks is 'How do I start?' The answer is right here on this page, for here are some tricks you can learn straight away. There is a lot to learn about magic if you want to take it up as a serious hobby. It is as well to start at the beginning, learn a few simple tricks and keep on practising until you can do them perfectly, for repeated practice is most important if you wish to improve your prowess as a magician. The tricks on this and the next two pages are easy to do but still very effective if you learn them properly. They are the first step to becoming a magician.

ICE UP

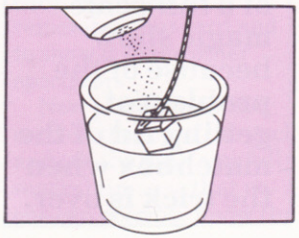
Here is a good trick you can do at the dinner table.

Take a cube of ice from the fridge and drop it into a glass of water.

Now give someone a piece of string. Ask them if they can lift the ice from the water with the string. They will not be able to do it but you can.

All you have to do is lay a loop of the string on top of the floating ice cube. Now sprinkle some salt over the string and the ice cube.

In just a little while you pull on the string and the ice is lifted from the water, for it has frozen to the string.

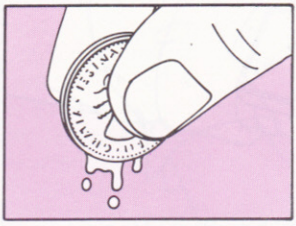


CRYING COIN

Your friends will be amazed when they see apparently real tears coming from an ordinary coin.

What they do not know is that you have secretly dampened a small ball of tissue paper. Squeeze out some of the water so the paper does not drip. Now hold the ball of wet paper against the coin.

When you show the coin to your friends you only show one side of it. They will not be able to see the ball of paper and water will drip from it when you squeeze. It looks as if the coin is crying!



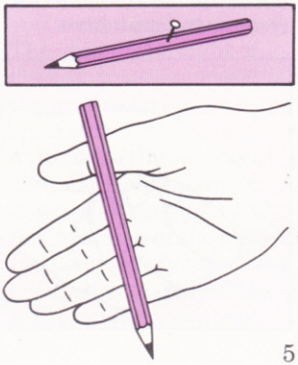
Tissue concealed behind coin

STICKY PENCIL

For this trick you make a pencil stick to your hand as if by magic.

All you have to do is secretly push a pin into the side of the pencil. Be careful that you do not push the pin into your fingers.

Now rest the pencil on the palm of your hand. Position it so that the pin goes between two of your fingers. You will now find that you can move your hand into an upright position without the pencil falling off.





ELUSIVE MATCHES

Place three matchboxes on the table. Tell your friends that only one of them contains matches. To prove this you pick up each box and shake it. Only one of them rattles.

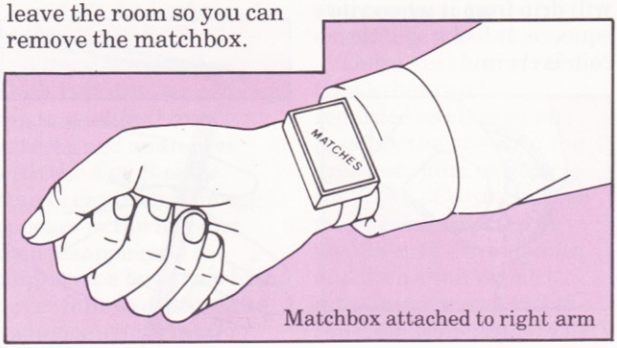
Now change the positions of the boxes and ask someone to point to the box containing the matches.

The spectator never succeeds in finding the right box because the rattling noise does not come from the boxes. It comes from you.

Just inside your right sleeve, fastened on to your arm with a strip of bandage, is another matchbox containing a few dead matches. So, whenever your friend chooses a box, pick it up with your left hand. It will not rattle when it is shaken.

Then pick up one of the other boxes with your right hand. 'This is the one you should have chosen,' you say, making it rattle.

After the trick is over, make some excuse to leave the room so you can remove the matchbox.



Matchbox attached to right arm

DISAPPEARING DIAMOND

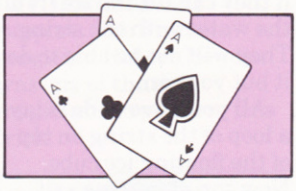
From a pack of playing cards take out the four aces. Put the ace of diamonds in your pocket.

Place the ace of hearts on the table so that the heart in the centre of the card is upside down. Put the ace of clubs and the ace of spades on top of it.

Show your audience the three cards. Because only part of the ace of hearts is showing it looks like the ace of diamonds, so tell them that is what it is.

Turn the three cards over and push them, one at a time, into the pack of cards.

Now ask someone to look through the pack and take out the ace of diamonds. It has vanished into your pocket!



MAGICIAN'S TIP

This is a 'one-off' trick. It cannot be part of a full-scale magic show because of the problem of getting rid of the matchbox when the trick is over.



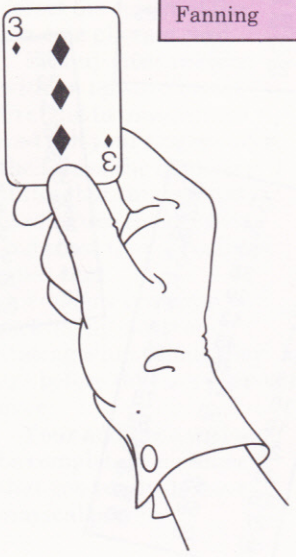
One of the best-known tricks in magic is that of finding a chosen playing card. Magicians have been doing this ever since cards were first invented.

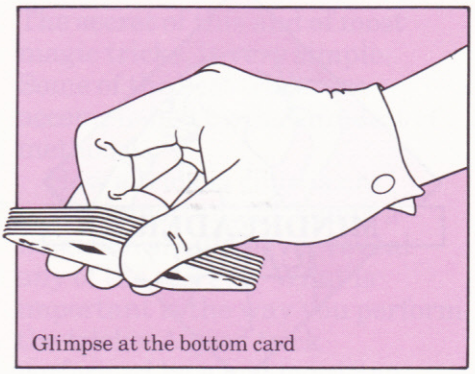
You should know at least one way of finding a card selected by a spectator after it has been returned to the pack because everyone expects a magician to be able to do this. Here is one way:

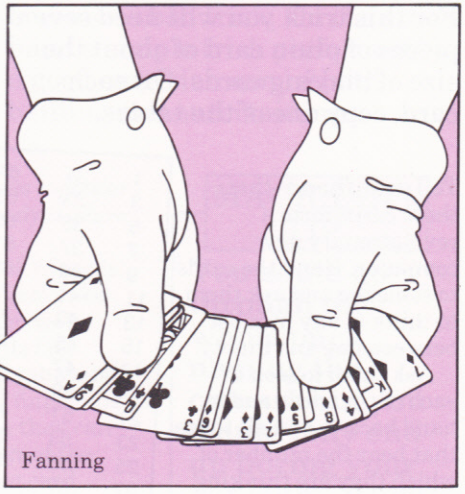
1 Ask someone to shuffle a pack until everyone is satisfied that the cards are well mixed up. As you take back the pack tilt your hand a little so that you can get a brief glimpse of the bottom card. You must remember the identity of this card.

2 Spread the cards out between your hands (magicians call this 'fanning') and allow someone to remove any card. Ask them to remember that card and to show it to the other spectators.

Now place the chosen card on the top of the pack and cut the pack carefully several times so that no-one can possibly know the position of the selected card.




Glimpse at the bottom card


Fanning

3 You now fan the cards with their faces towards you and look for the card you memorised earlier. The card to the right of the one you memorised is the one taken by the spectator.

4 Remove the selected card and hold it face down. Ask the spectator for the name of the chosen card and slowly turn over the card you are holding. It is the very same one!



MAGICIAN'S TIP

This trick works mathematically so try not to make it obvious that you are adding the numbers. Put your hand up to your eyes as if concentrating your thoughts, so your friends will not realise what you are really doing.

For this trick you will need seven pieces of plain card of about the size of playing cards. On each card, copy one of the tables.

Tell your friends that these cards form a revolutionary new computer. Hand the cards to someone and ask them to think of any number between one and ninety.

Ask them to look at each of the cards and to hand back to you all those that bear the number of which they are thinking.

Almost instantly you can tell them the chosen number. To find out what it is, all you have to do is look at the top left hand number on the cards returned to you. Add these together, and the answer is the number thought of.

1	31	61
3	33	63
5	35	65
7	37	67
9	39	69
11	41	71
13	43	73
15	45	75
17	47	77
19	49	79
21	51	81
23	53	83
25	55	85
27	57	87
29	59	89

16	31	62
17	48	63
18	49	80
19	50	81
20	51	82
21	52	83
22	53	84
23	54	85
24	55	86
25	56	87
26	57	88
27	58	89
28	59	90
29	60	
30	61	

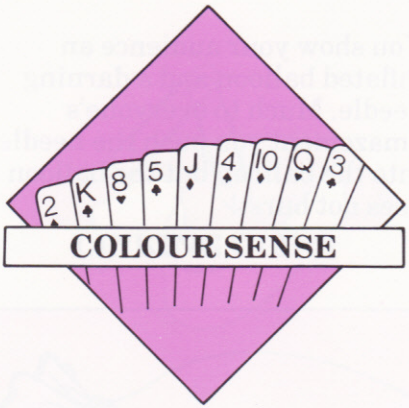
8	31	62
9	40	63
10	41	72
11	42	73
12	43	74
13	44	75
14	45	76
15	46	77
24	47	78
25	56	79
26	57	88
27	58	89
28	59	90
29	60	
30	61	

32	43	54
33	44	55
34	45	56
35	46	57
36	47	58
37	48	59
38	49	60
39	50	61
40	51	62
41	52	63
42	53	

64	73	82
65	74	83
66	75	84
67	76	85
68	77	86
69	78	87
70	79	88
71	80	89
72	81	90

2	31	62
3	34	63
6	35	66
7	38	67
10	39	70
11	42	71
14	43	74
15	46	75
18	47	78
19	50	79
22	51	82
23	54	83
26	55	86
27	58	87
30	59	90

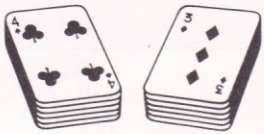
4	31	62
5	36	63
6	37	68
7	38	69
12	39	70
13	44	71
14	45	76
15	46	77
20	47	78
21	52	79
22	53	84
23	54	85
28	55	86
29	60	87
30	61	



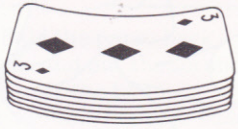
The secret of this and of most magic tricks, is very simple. Some of the best tricks are accomplished by the simplest of methods.

How a trick is done is not really important (although a magician should never reveal any of the secrets). What is important is the way you perform the tricks. A good trick performed by a bad magician becomes a bad trick. On the other hand a simple trick performed by a good magician can be both baffling and entertaining.

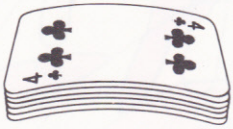
1 Before your performance take a pack of cards and secretly separate the red suits from the black suits.



2 Now take all the red cards and bend them upwards.



3 Next take all the black cards and give them a downward bend.



Mix all the cards together and you are ready to show the trick.

Show the pack of cards and let the audience see you shuffle them well. Spread the cards face down all over a table and state that your fingertips are so sensitive they can detect the colour of the ink on a playing card.

Pick up one card (one with an upward bend). Pretend to concentrate and rub your fingers over the face of the card. Say: 'I think that this is a red card'. Turn the card over and show that it really is a red card.

You now continue picking up cards and stating what colour they are before they are turned over.

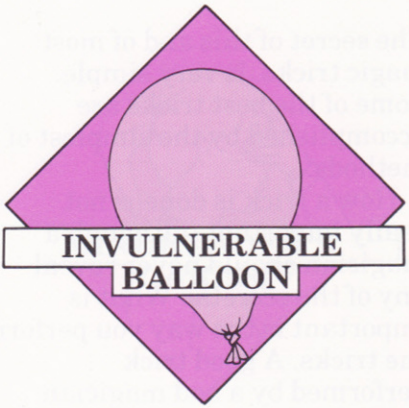
Your audience will soon be completely convinced that you really do have magical powers.

MAGICIAN'S TIP

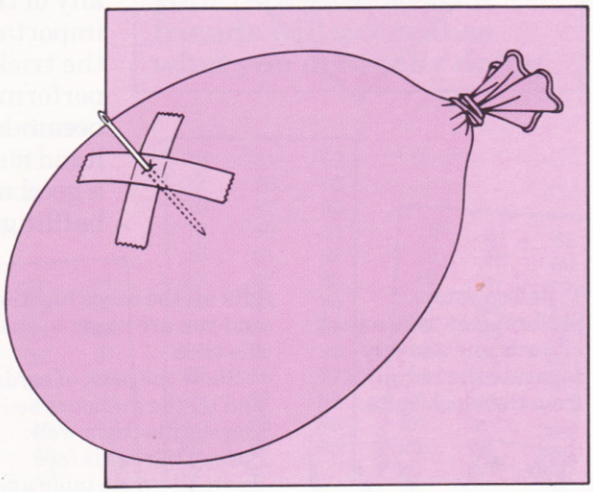
You could go through the whole pack naming the colours but you would only end up boring your audience. About twenty cards is enough.

Pick the first few cards slowly and then gradually go faster and faster to build up to an exciting finish.

Then gather up the rest of the cards and go into another trick.



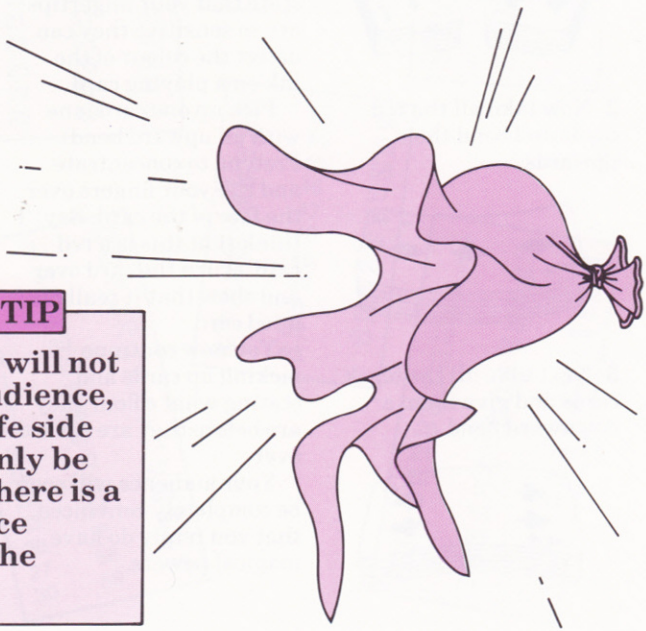
You show your audience an inflated balloon and a darning needle. Much to everyone's amazement you push the needle into the balloon but the balloon does not burst!



The secret of this amazing trick is really quite simple. On one side of the balloon you stick two pieces of clear adhesive tape in a cross formation.

Push the needle into the balloon through the centre of this tape cross. The balloon will not burst as the tape holds the rubber in place.

When the audience have finished applauding stab the needle into another part of the balloon, so that it bursts.



MAGICIAN'S TIP

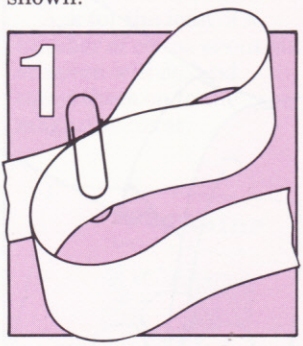
The adhesive tape will not be visible to the audience, but to be on the safe side this trick should only be performed when there is a reasonable distance between you and the spectators.



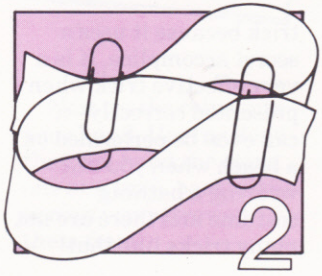
LINKING CLIPS

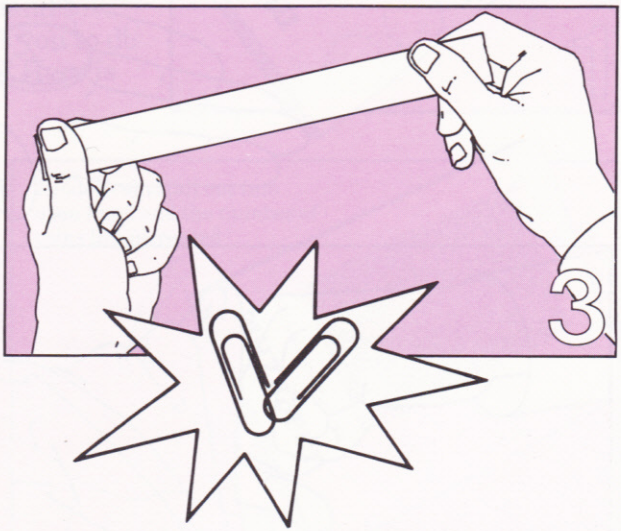
All you need for this neat little trick is two paper clips and a strip of paper. The trick is rather small-scale, so you will have to be quite close to your audience as you carry it out. But don't worry – there's no sleight-of-hand for them to see. In fact you'll probably be mystified yourself!

1 Fold the paper over and place one of the clips over the double thickness as shown.



2 Fold the paper back again and put the second clip over the two thicknesses of paper that are nearest to you.

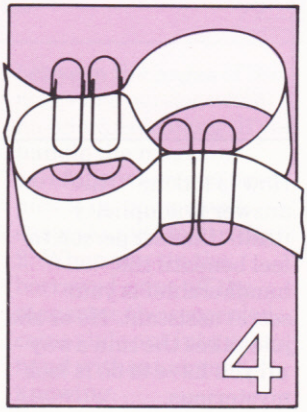




3 It is obvious that the paper clips are nowhere near each other. Point this out to your audience. Hold the two ends of the paper, one in each hand, and then pull your hands apart sharply. The paper clips will fly into the air.

Get someone to pick up the clips and, to everyone's astonishment, they will have magically linked themselves together.

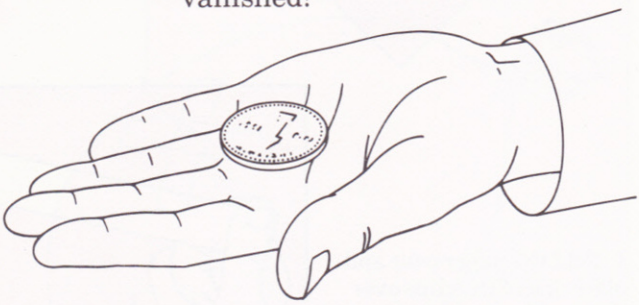
4 Now try it with four clips.

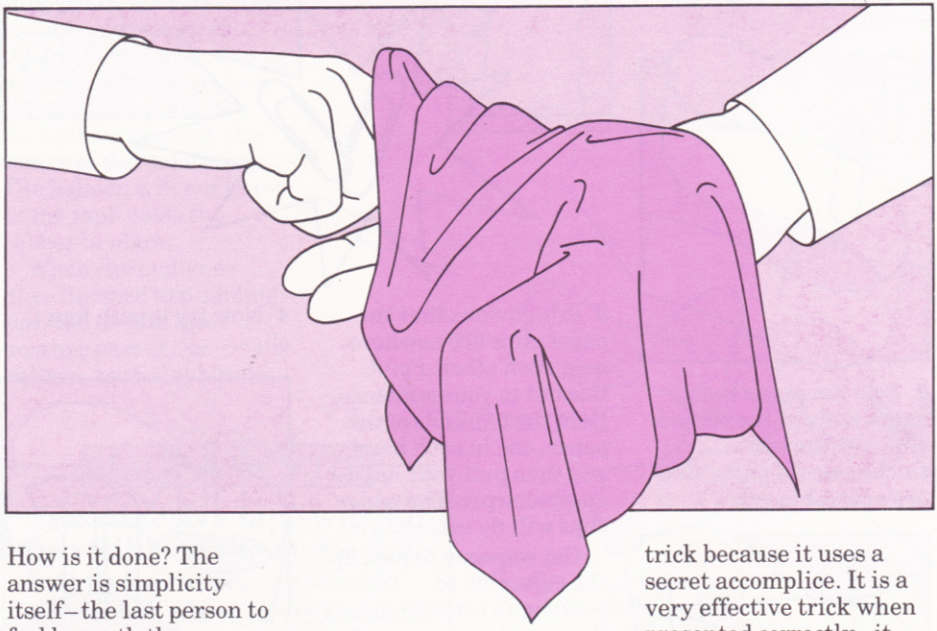




Place a coin on your outstretched palm and then cover it with a handkerchief. Several members of your audience are now invited to reach under the handkerchief and touch the coin to make sure it is still there.

But when you lift the handkerchief the coin has vanished!

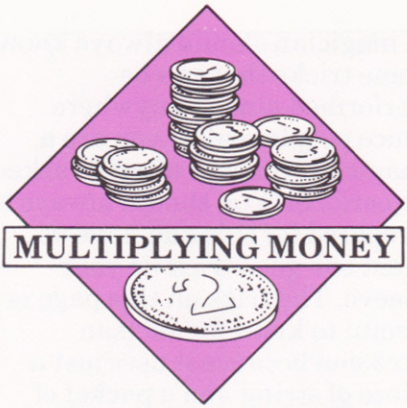




How is it done? The answer is simplicity itself–the last person to feel beneath the handkerchief is your secret assistant. He or she just takes the coin away–all you have to do is look mysterious.

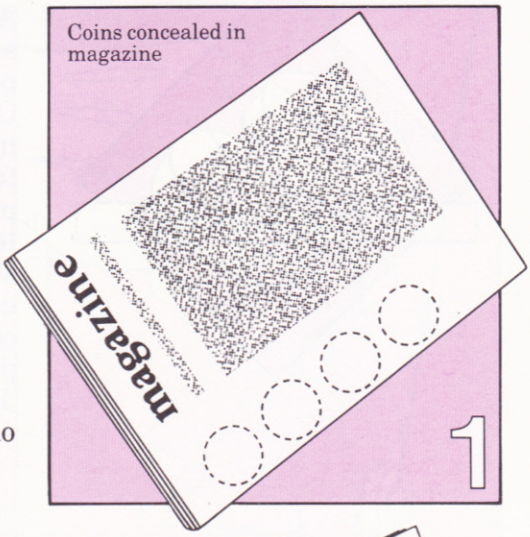
You and your friend should rehearse the trick in private before showing it to anyone.

Do not dismiss this trick because it uses a secret accomplice. It is a very effective trick when presented correctly–it can even be performed on a beach when you are wearing a bathing costume and there are not many tricks like that!



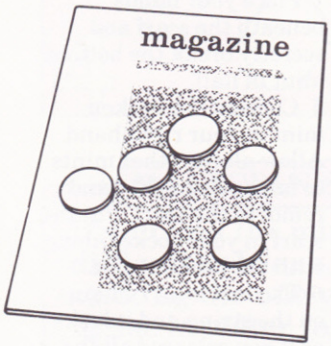
MULTIPLYING MONEY

Imagine you are at a friend's home and someone asks you to do a trick. What do you do? Here is one you can try:

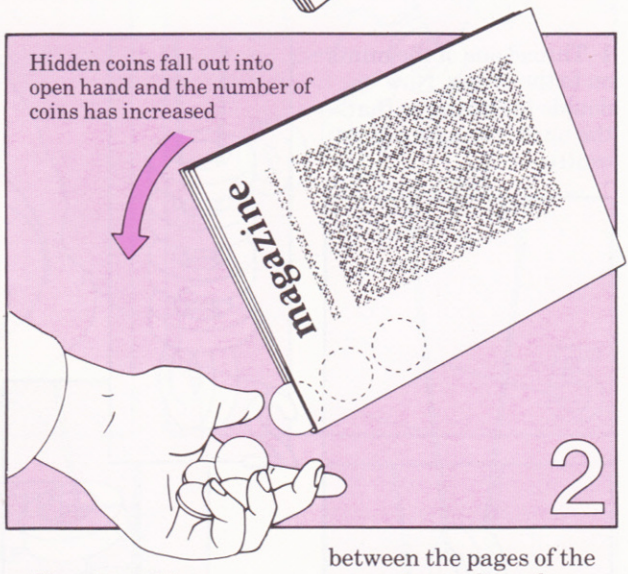


First pick up a magazine from its place and place it on your lap to act as a table.

Ask for the loan of a number of coins, about six or seven will do, and count them on to the magazine cover.



Now tip the coins into your hand. Having done that you hand the coins, one at a time, back to the person you borrowed them from.



There's nothing magical in this so far. But when you have returned all the coins you still have four left in your hand! These you place in your pocket as you say: 'That is how a magician makes money.'

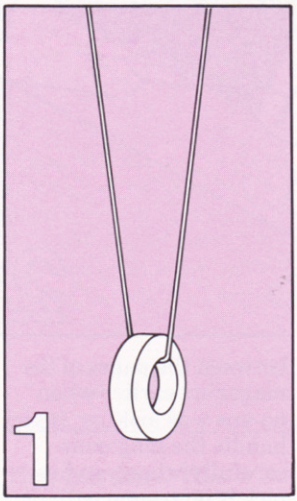
1 The secret of this trick is advance preparation. You slipped four coins between the pages of the magazine earlier when no-one was looking. If you handle the magazine carefully when you first pick it up no-one will suspect anything tricky.

2 When you tip the borrowed coins off the magazine the concealed coins slide out into your hand without anyone knowing.



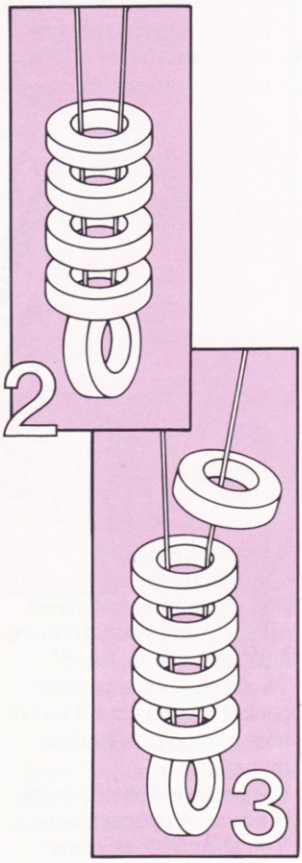
A magician should always know some tricks that can be performed almost anywhere. Once people realise you are a magician you will often be asked to perform. You should always be prepared for this and have at least one good trick up your sleeve. The trick on this page is useful to know for such an occasion because it uses just a piece of string and a packet of 'Polo' mints.

1 Thread one of the mints on to the string. Now double the string so that the mint is hanging at its centre.



2 Next thread a number of sweets over the double string. The sweet at the bottom stops the others from falling off.

3 Add a final mint. The audience should believe that this is threaded over the double string like all the others. In actual fact you secretly place the last mint over one end of the string only.



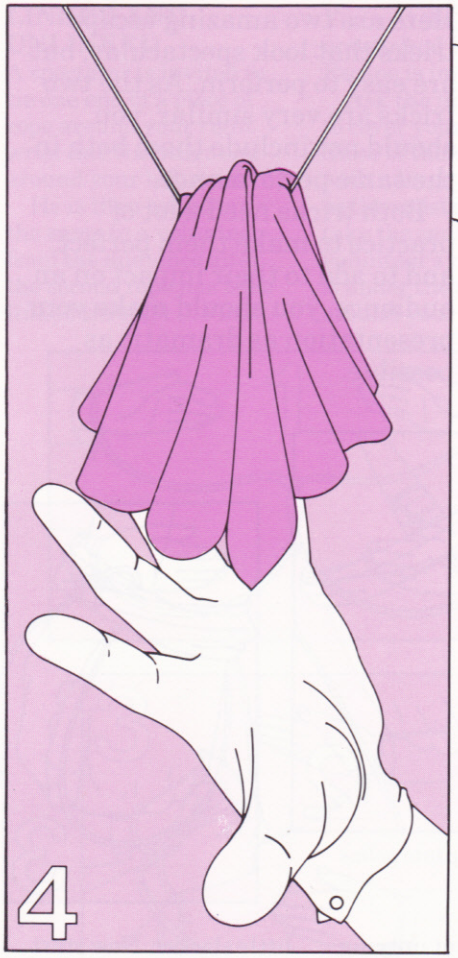
4 Ask someone to hold the ends of the string. Now drape a scarf over the string and the sweets.

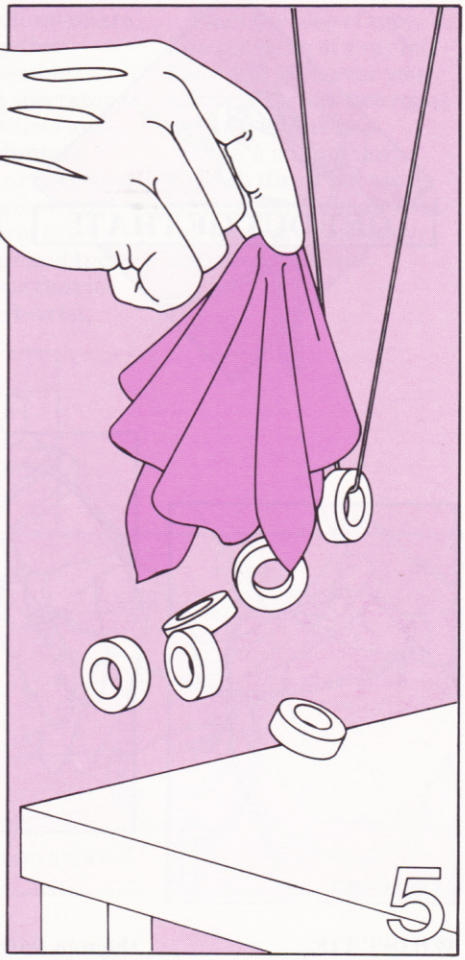
Place your hands beneath the scarf and secretly break the bottom mint in half.

5 Conceal the broken mint in your right hand. Allow all the other mints to fall as the right hand removes the scarf. Put the scarf in your pocket along with the broken mint.

6 The last mint remains on the string and it looks as if you released all the others by magic.

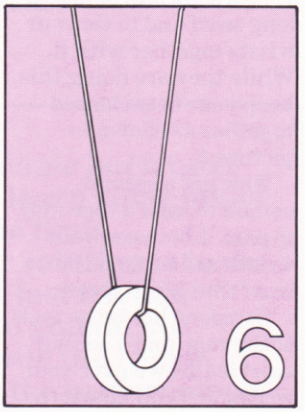
For a stage show, where the mints might be too small for the audience to see easily, you could substitute coloured card rings.





MAGICIAN'S TIP

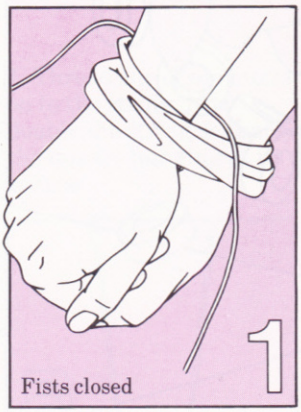
If you find the mints difficult to break, try soaking the one you plan to use in water for a few minutes. Let it dry out before you perform the trick. It will not look different from the other mints – but it will be much easier to break!



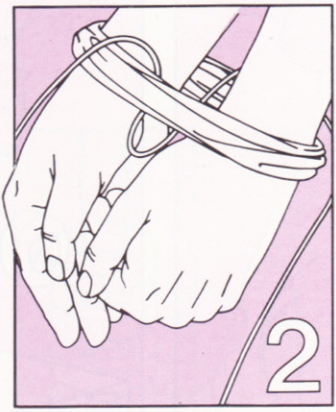


Here are two amazing escape tricks that look spectacular, but are easy to perform. As the two tricks are very similar, you should not include them both in the same performance.

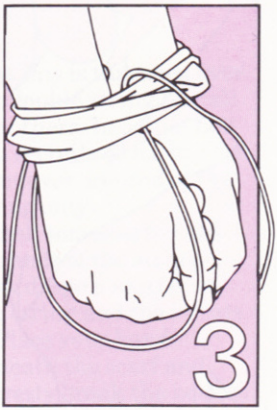
Both tricks need a lot of practice to make them perfect, and to add to their impact on an audience, you should make your presentation as dramatic as possible.



Fists closed



Working rope up into palms



WRIST TIE

1 Ask someone to take a long scarf and to tie your wrists together with it. While they are doing this, keep your fists clasped together as shown in picture 1.

Now get a second person to take a rope and to pass it between your wrists and around the scarf that binds them.

Someone holds the ends of the rope and a second scarf is thrown over your wrists. All you now have to do is free yourself from the rope without untying the scarf fastened around your wrists!

This is how you do it:

2 Underneath the scarf you open your hands and hold them as wide apart as you can. Pull away from the person who is holding the rope and bring the wrists together again. If you time this correctly you will now have some of the rope trapped between the heels of your hands.

Ask the person holding the rope to allow it to be a little slacker. Now start moving your hands backwards and forwards so that you can gradually work the rope up towards your fingers.

3 Eventually you will be able to bend one of your hands back towards the rope and to get your fingers through the loop.

4 When you have done this ask the spectator to pull on the rope. Much to everyone's surprise it comes free but the scarf still binds your wrists!

LINKED AND UNLINKED

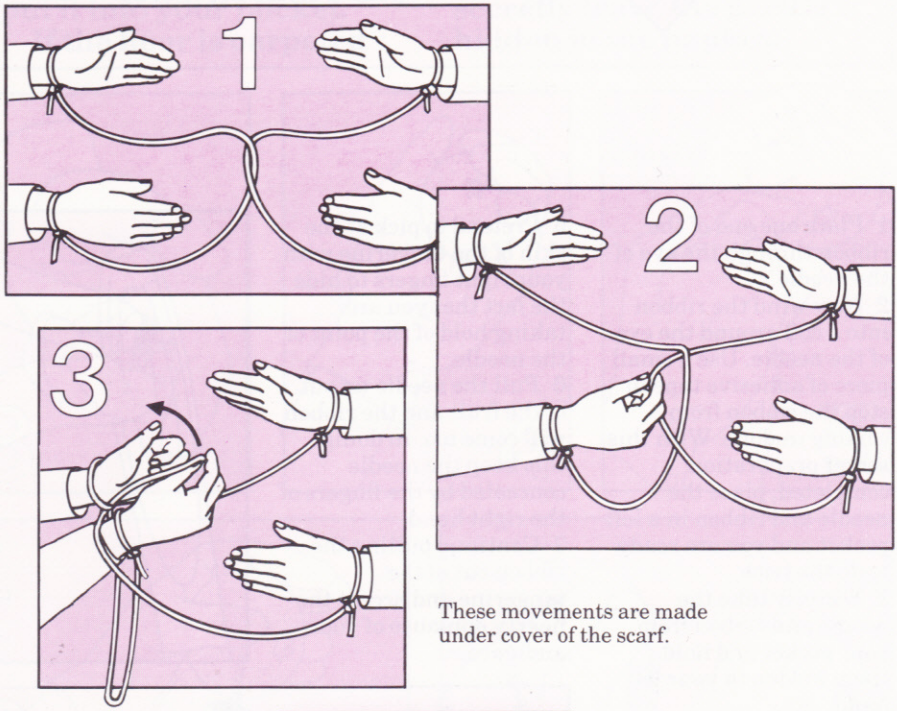
A spectator is invited to tie one end of a piece of rope around your right wrist and the other end around your left wrist.

He is then asked to do the same to a volunteer from the audience after the second rope has been linked through the first. You and the volunteer are now linked together. Escape is impossible.

Ask the first spectator to cover your wrists and those of the volunteer with a large scarf. As soon as the wrists are covered take the centre of the volunteer's rope and tuck it under the rope that is around your left wrist.

Push the loop of rope into the palm of your left hand and then over your left fingers. The two ropes are now unlinked.

With a triumphant flourish throw the scarf off your hands, show that the ropes are definitely unlinked, and bow.



These movements are made under cover of the scarf.

MAGICIAN'S TIP

Because your wrists are still tied at the end of this trick you should have some funny remarks ready to cover the time it takes to undo the ropes. Say something like 'I'll only be a couple of hours,' and 'Can you come back next week?' or learn some jokes to fill in the time.

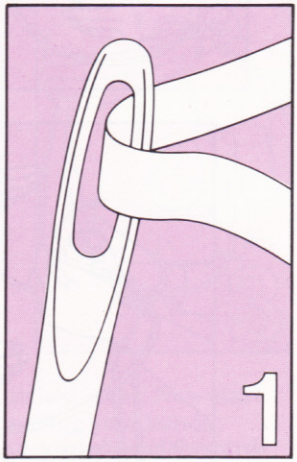
Another solution is to do this as the last trick in your act so you do not have to untie the ropes until after the performance.

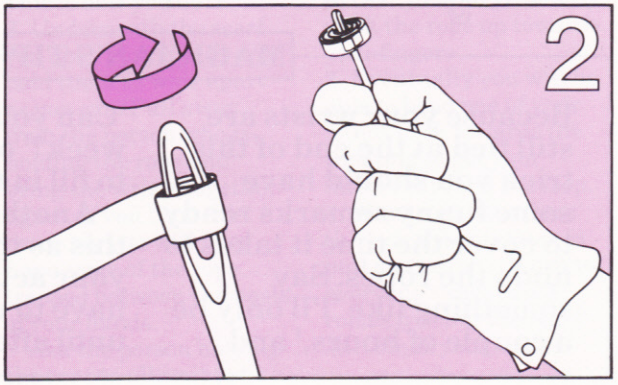


Have you ever seen a tangerine with a ribbon in it? It is not very likely – but to a magician such an amazing sight is an everyday occurrence, as this trick shows.

You will need a tangerine, a darning needle, adhesive tape and some narrow ribbon. The needle should be long enough to go right through the tangerine, plus a little bit more.

1 Place one end of the ribbon through the eye of the needle.
2 Now wind the ribbon into a coil around the eye of the needle. Use a small piece of adhesive tape to stop the ribbon from coming undone. With this secret preparation completed, place the needle and ribbon in a left pocket and you are ready to do the trick.
3 Secretly take the needle and ribbon from your pocket and hold them hidden in your left hand.
4 Ask someone to hand you a tangerine from a bowl of them that just happens to be on the table. Take the tangerine in your right hand and then put it into your left hand. In doing this you put the tangerine on the point of the needle and then push the tangerine down so the needle goes through the fruit.
5 Pretend to pick at the skin of the tangerine with your right fingers to hide the fact that you are taking hold of the point of the needle.
6 Pull the needle up out of the fruit and the ribbon will come too. In doing this keep the needle concealed by the fingers of the right hand.
7 Continue pulling the ribbon out of the tangerine and accept the hearty applause of your audience.





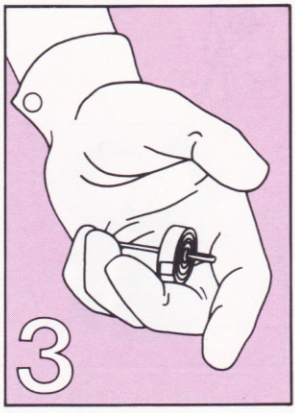
MAGICIAN'S TIP

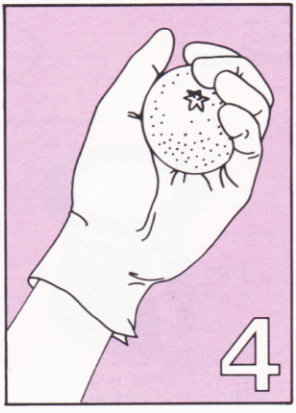
One of the problems with this trick is how to get rid of the needle at the finish without anyone noticing. There are several ways you can do this:

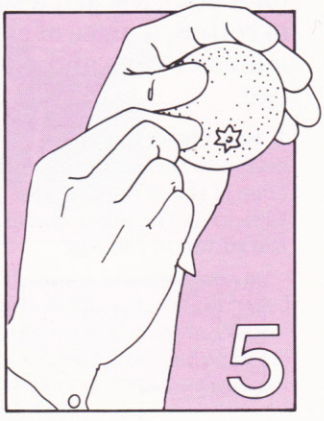
Keep the needle in your hand until well after the end of the trick and then put it into your pocket.

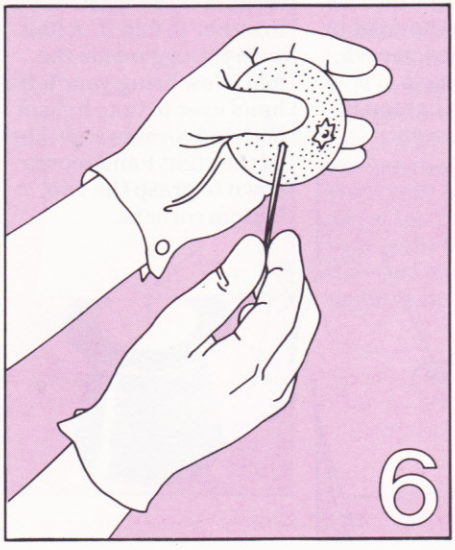
If the floor is carpeted allow it to drop silently to the floor as all attention is on the ribbon. If you do this please make sure that you pick it up later when no-one is looking.

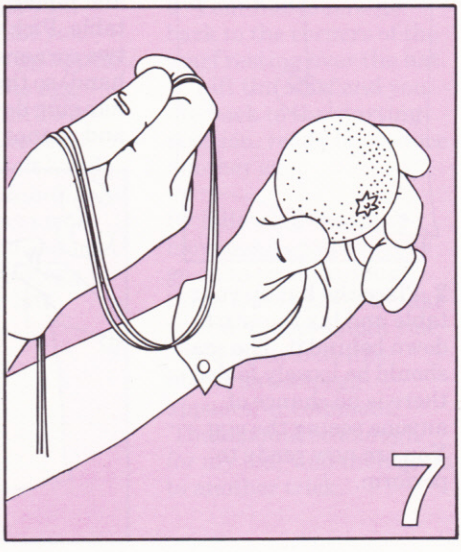
Have a napkin handy to wipe the tangerine juice from your fingers and secretly leave the needle hidden in the napkin.













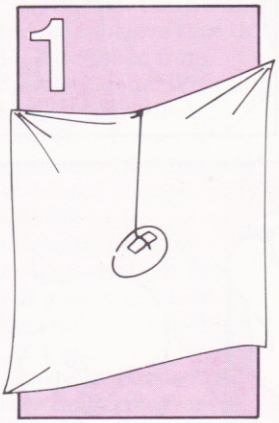
EGGS FROM NOWHERE

MAGICIAN'S TIP

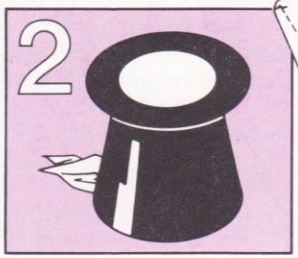
Although the various movements have been described separately they should all be blended into one smooth action if the trick is to be performed successfully.

For this trick you will need a hat (or a box), a scarf, a short length of cotton, a piece of clear adhesive tape and an imitation egg.

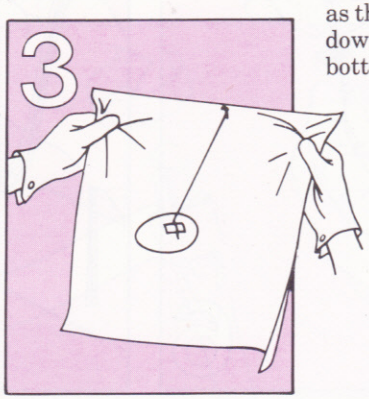
1 Sew one end of the cotton to the centre of one edge of the scarf. Use the tape to fix the other end of the cotton to the egg.



2 Place the hat on your table and lay the scarf down behind it. The scarf should be loosely folded so there is no chance of anyone seeing the egg. You are now ready to perform.

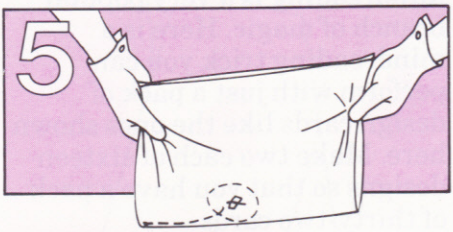


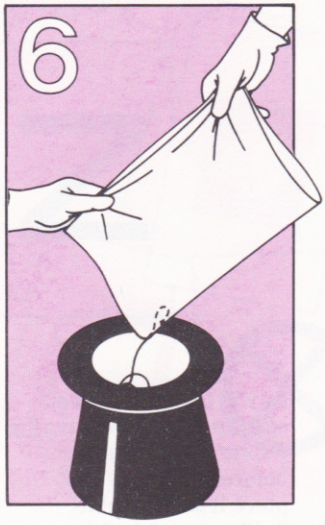
3 Show the hat empty and replace it on the table. Pick up the scarf by two corners (one in each hand) so the egg is hanging down behind it and cannot be seen.

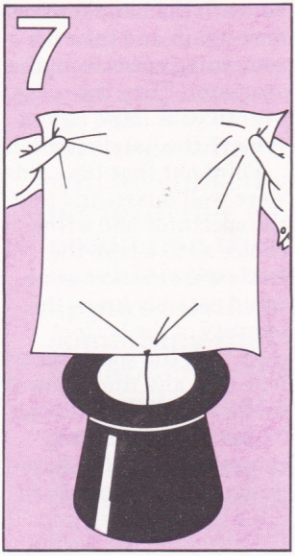


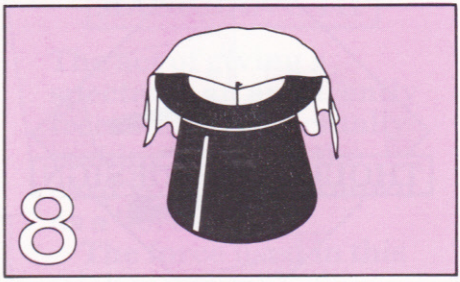


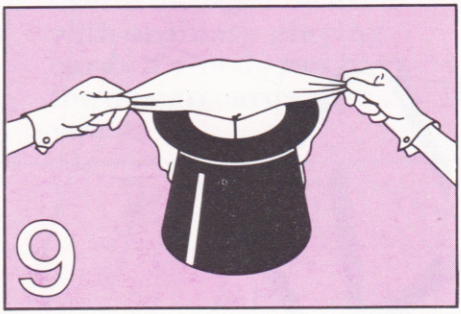
4 Bring the two top corners of the scarf together to fold it in half with the egg inside the fold. Now bring your left hand over to take hold of both top corners together as the right hand moves down to grasp the two bottom corners.











5 Raise the right hand until the folded edge of the scarf is horizontal.
6 Continue raising the right hand until the egg rolls out of the scarf and into the hat. Let your audience see that you have made an egg appear.
7 Now make the egg disappear again! To do this, let go of the scarf corners in the left hand. With your left hand, take one of the corners from your right hand and open the scarf out. The egg remains in the hat.
8 Allow the corners you are holding to fall forward and on to the table. Make sure that the rear edge of the scarf stays resting on the hat.
9 Your hands now go back to the corners of the scarf resting over the hat.

Lift the scarf and you are back to the starting position, ready to produce another egg.

By following the same movements you can now go on to produce about three more eggs. To make your audience laugh you could make hen-like noises as each egg appears, or comment, 'That should be enough for my tea,' and then go on to another trick.

THOUGHTS IN DESIGN

Mindreading is a very popular branch of magic. Here is a mindreading trick you can perform with just a pack of design cards like the ones shown here. Make two each of sixteen designs so that you have a pack of thirty-two cards.



1 Before your performance take one of the cards and place it face down on your table. You must remember the design on this card.

Cover the card with a folded handkerchief.

2 When the time comes to show the trick you bring forward the rest of the design cards and let the audience see that there are lots of different designs.

3 Ask someone from the audience to shuffle the cards until these are completely mixed up.

Take the cards face down in your right hand.

4 Pick up the folded handkerchief with your left hand and place the cards on the table, on top of the card you placed there before the start of the show. The timing of this movement is important for the audience must not see the card on the table. It should appear that you simply placed the cards down to free your right hand so it can help in opening out the handkerchief.

5 Pick up the cards once more and drape the handkerchief over them. As soon as the cards are out of sight beneath the handkerchief, turn the whole pack upside down.

Now ask someone to cut off a few of the cards through the handkerchief.

The spectator holds on to the top, cut off, portion as you bring the lower section into view (turning it over in your hand before you do so) and place it on the table.

6 Place your hand beneath the handkerchief once again and take the remaining cards from the spectator. Turn the cards over in your hand as you remove the handkerchief.

Point out that the cards were well mixed and that the spectator had a free choice as to where the cards were cut so no-one could possibly know the identity of the bottom card. Ask the spectator to look at it and then show it to the rest of the audience.

7 Ask the spectator to concentrate on the chosen design. Now pretend you are a mind-reader, and tell everyone the design that is on the selected card.



MAGICIAN'S TIP

The act of giving a spectator an apparently free choice but actually making him take the card you want is known as a 'force'.

The force used in this trick is particularly useful as it can be used with ordinary playing cards if you do not have the design cards with you.

MAGICIAN'S TIP

As you know well in advance what design will be chosen you can perform this as a prediction trick – a trick in which the magician apparently foretells something that is going to happen in the future.

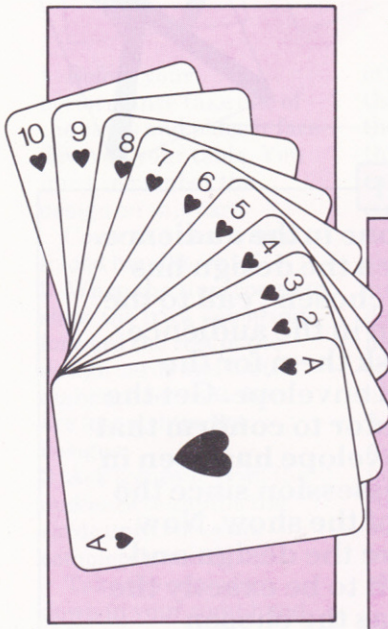
Decide what design you are going to use and put a drawing of that design in a sealed envelope. Before your show, hand this to someone in the audience.

When the design has been 'chosen', call to the person in the audience and ask them for the sealed envelope. Get the spectator to confirm that the envelope has been in his possession since the start of the show. Now remove the design and show it to be exactly the same as the chosen design, proving that you can predict the future.



There are hundreds of tricks that can be performed with a pack of playing cards. You have already seen some of them. Here is another.

1 For this trick you will need the ace to the ten of hearts arranged in numerical order as shown in the picture below. Do not let anyone know about this secret preparation.



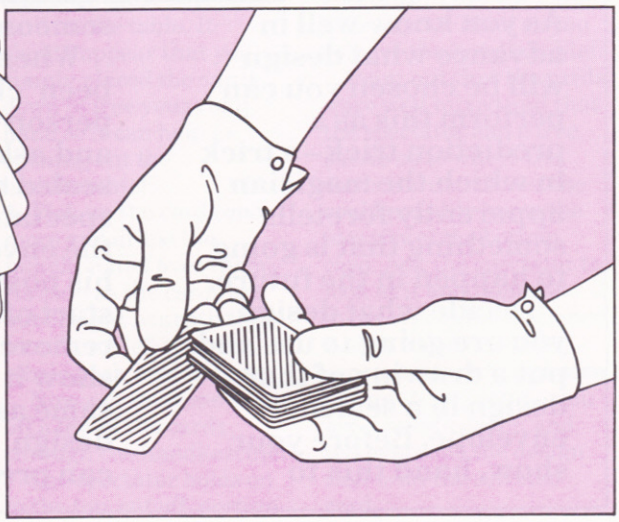
2 Place the ten arranged cards on the top of the pack, and you are ready to perform.



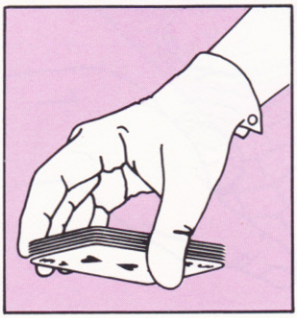
When the time comes to show a trick, count off the ten cards from the top of the pack. This reverses their order. Hand the ten cards to a spectator.

Ask the spectator to think of any number from one to ten – but not to tell you which number it is.

3 While your back is turned the spectator transfers, one at a time, that number of cards from the top to the bottom of the packet.



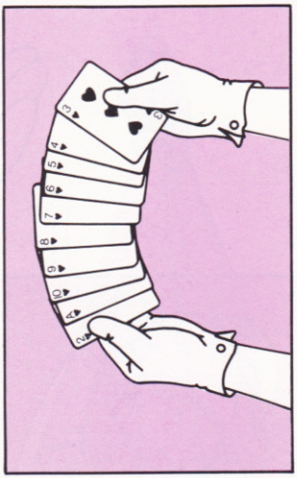
4 When this has been done, turn round and take the packet of cards. As you square up the cards on your hand tilt them slightly so you can secretly glimpse the bottom card.



The bottom card will tell you how many cards were moved. In the illustration above the bottom card is a three – so you know that three cards have been moved.

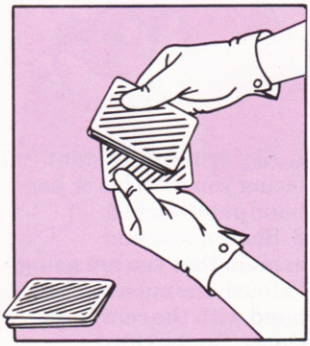
5 Pretend to read the spectator's mind and tell him the number he chose. Do this as impressively and mysteriously as you can.

6 You now offer to repeat the trick but this time you predict what number the spectator will think before he has even decided himself. As you are explaining this, spread the ten cards out in front of you and cut them at the six.



Complete the cut so the six is on the bottom. Place the cards behind your back and tell everyone that you are trying to decide what number the spectator will choose and that you are rearranging the cards into a special order. In fact you do absolutely nothing to the cards.

7 Hand the cards to the spectator once again. He is now to think of any number from one to ten and then transfer that number of cards, one at a time, from the top to the bottom of the pack.



When he has done this ask him to discard the cards in the following manner. The first card is to be dealt onto the table, the next placed under the pack, the next card on the table, the next under the pack and so on until there is only one card left in his hand.

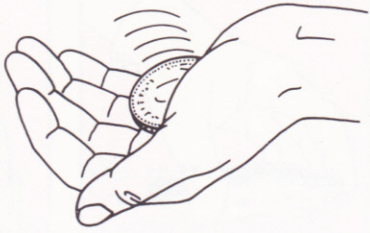
Ask the spectator to name the number he is thinking of and then say: 'I knew you were going to pick that number. Turn over the card in your hand.' He turns the card over and it is the same as his chosen number!

MAGICIAN'S TIP

As a general rule you should never do a trick more than once at any one time. On the first showing the audience will think it is marvellous – but if you do it again straight away they will have more of a chance to work out how it was done. In this trick you say you are going to repeat it but in fact you do something different.

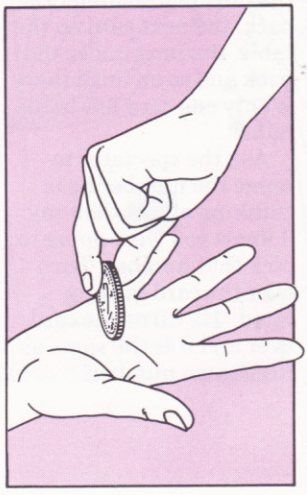


This trick is only suitable for showing to one person at a time. If you do this trick as part of a performance the audience will see how it is done and may give the game away. But it is so mystifying it is well worth knowing.



1 Ask someone to stand facing you with his or her hand outstretched.
2 Show a coin and explain that you are going to touch the outstretched hand with the coin three times. On the third occasion he is to close his hand around the coin as quickly as possible.

Touch his hand with the coin and say: 'One'.





Then lift your hand up and touch the top of your head with the coin.

Bring the hand down again and touch the person's hand with the coin again as you count 'Two'.
3 Raise your hand once again but this time secretly slip the coin on to your head.

Without stopping bring your hand back down to the spectator's hand on the count of three and he closes his hand.

Show your hands empty and then ask your friend to open his hand. The coin has disappeared!

Now ask the spectator to cup his hands together in front of his body and you will try to make the coin come back.

Get your friend to look down at his hands. Then bend your head forward so the coin drops from it and onto his hands. It seems to materialise from nowhere. It must be magic!

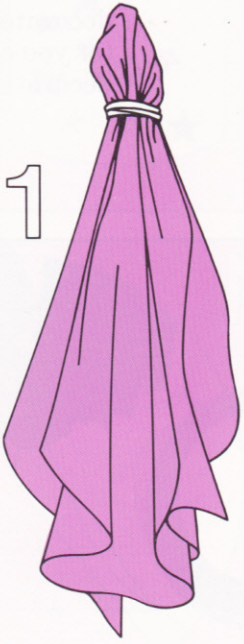
MAGICIAN'S TIP

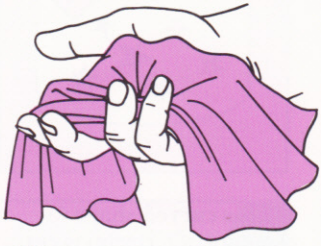
Keep looking at the person's hands when doing this trick. They are then more likely to look down as well and so will not see your secret movements.

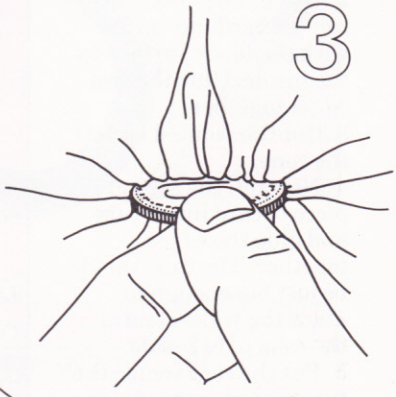


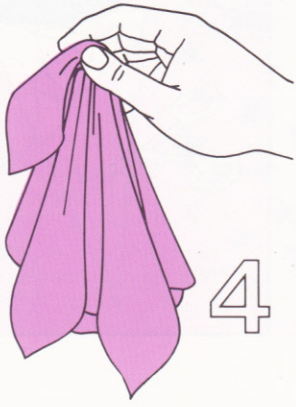
VANISHING COIN 2

It is always useful to know several different ways to do a trick so you can change your performance according to the particular situation. Here is another way to make a coin vanish.









1 For this trick you need some secret preparation. Take a scarf and push a small elastic band over the material at the centre as shown. During your performance, keep the scarf moving so the audience will not see the elastic band.

2 As you show the trick, keep the band hidden and lay the scarf over the fingers of one hand.

3 Borrow a coin and place it on the centre of the scarf. Now push the coin into the scarf and work it into the material held by the elastic band.

4 Say some magic words and then holding on to one corner, of the scarf, shake it vigorously. No coin falls out. It must have vanished!

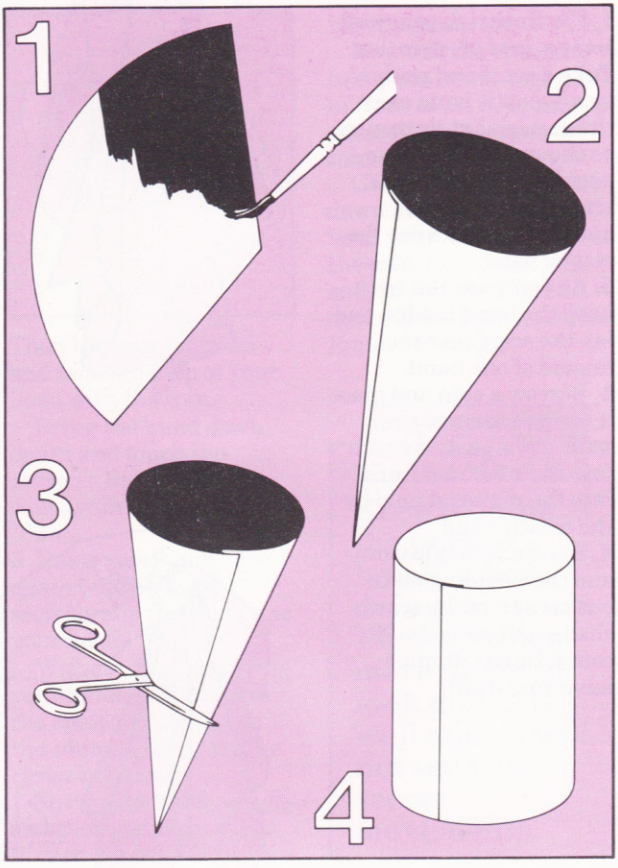


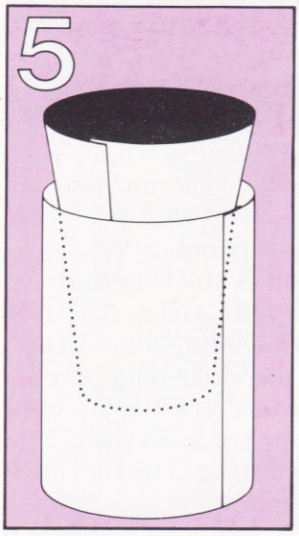
This trick makes a good finale for a magic act.

You show an empty tube, place it on your table and then pull out a lot of coloured ribbons from it.

The tube can be made quite easily from two pieces of fairly thick card. You will also need some black paint, glue, scissors and some coloured shapes to decorate the outside of the tube (or you can paint on your own decorations if you wish).

1 This curved shape (a segment of a circle) is cut from the first piece of card. Now paint the whole of one side with matt black paint.
2 When the paint is dry, roll the card into a cone with the black surface on the inside. Glue the two edges together.
3 Cut the pointed end off the cone.
4 Now roll the second piece of card into a tube and glue the edges together. The tube should be just big enough to allow the widest end of the cone to fit inside.
5 Put the cone inside the tube and glue the wide end of the cone firmly into the tube.
6 Decorate the outside of the finished tube.
7 At one end of the tube there is now a space between the inner cone and the outer tube. Fill this with coloured ribbons



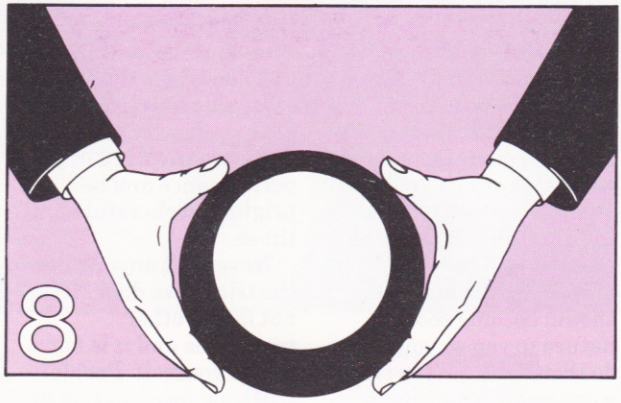






and handkerchiefs just before the start of your performance and stand the tube on your table. You are now ready to perform the trick.

8 Pick up the tube, hold it so that the ribbons are towards you and allow the audience to look through the tube. The audience will think that the small hole they can see is actually the far end of the tube. Keep the tube moving while doing this so the audience do not have any chance to spot your secret preparation.



9 Place the tube on your table with the secret compartment uppermost. Say some magic words or wave your hands mysteriously over the tube and pull out the ribbons one after the other.





The basic secrets of magic are usually very simple as you will have discovered from reading this book. In fact some of the most amazing tricks are done by the simplest of means. The thing that changes these simple methods into baffling and entertaining magic is what magicians call *showmanship and presentation.*

Showmanship and presentation are the way that you perform your tricks. If you just do a trick as it appears in a magic book it could easily bore your audience. You must try to 'dress up' your tricks so they become interesting. The tips on these pages will help.

PRACTICE

One of the worst things you can do is show a trick that you have not practised. *Practice makes perfect.* You must practise your tricks until you can do them perfectly. Even then you should carry on practising. The movements in any trick should become second nature to you so you can do them without ever wondering 'what comes next?'.

PATTER

Most magicians use talk, or *patter*, when they perform. Patter should not be made up on the spur of the moment but thoroughly rehearsed–just like every other aspect of your performance.

DOS AND DON'TS

Try to make your tricks *entertaining*. Magic may be interesting to you but that does not mean that everyone else will like it. Only do tricks that are enjoyable to watch, try to get members of your audience involved in your performance and be bright and cheerful at all times.

Never tell anyone how the tricks are done. It is not fair to other magicians and it is not fair to yourself. People will soon lose interest in your tricks once they know the secret. *Mystery* is the basic appeal of magic, so keep your methods to yourself.

Never repeat a trick. When you have baffled someone with your magic they will often say: 'Do it again.' Do not do it. Repeating a trick gives your spectators a second chance to work out how the trick is done. Show them another trick instead.

Never tell your audience what you are going to do. This will give them less chance to work out how the trick was done.

PREPARATION

If a trick requires some secret preparation (like 'I've Got Your Number'), do this in private. If you cannot prepare in private do not do the trick. Do some other trick instead.

Always make sure that the things you require for a trick are available. It could be embarrassing with a trick like 'Ice Up' if no salt was available–so *check everything* before you even think of showing the trick.

AND FINALLY...

Remember when to stop. Most magicians are happy to show tricks all day long. Do not fall into this trap. Only show a few tricks. Leave the spectators asking for



Reiner Teschner is both magician and a teacher. Here he shows a few tricks to his pupils.

more and your magic will always be popular.

To learn more about magic, read books on the subject and talk to other magicians.

There are lots of good books on magic available, so read as many as you can. It will also be worthwhile joining a magic club if you can – it is quite likely you will find there is one near you.

MAGICIAN'S TIP

Learn as much as you can about magic and magicians. The more you know the greater will be your enjoyment of this fascinating branch of entertainment. You will never do all the tricks you read about but they will add to your knowledge of magic and this will help to improve your own performances.



USING THE SOFTWARE

Load the software, using the instructions on your cassette.

When the software has loaded, type in the password:

MAGIC

and then press the RETURN or ENTER key to go on. The password prevents unauthorised access to the secrets of your tricks!

Next type in your name. The curtains now open and the magic is waiting for you. You have three options:

TRICKS, SEQUENCE and SHOW.

TRICKS explains the secrets of the tricks; SEQUENCE allows you to select the tricks you wish to feature in your show; SHOW is for your live presentation!

Now look at TRICKS.

Choose from the names of the tricks scrolling up in front of you. For each trick, you have three options:

THE MAGIC

MAGICIAN'S TIPS

REHEARSAL

Its best to go through each of these in this order, first to see how the trick works, then to see how to present it as part of a show, and finally to practise until you are perfect!

When you have rehearsed a number of tricks you will be ready to choose the tricks for your show. Select SHOW and these options will appear:

SEQUENCE A SHOW

REVIEW A SHOW

Use SEQUENCE to choose the tricks and accompanying tunes for your show; REVIEW to remind you of the order in which you have chosen them.

To add variety to your show, you can present tricks from the book (or elsewhere) in between computer tricks. Just leave the computer running – the curtains close after each trick, and open again to start a new trick only when you press a key.

SPECTRUM

Press CAPS SHIFT and A simultaneously to return to the main selection screen at any time.

Press O to switch the sound off or on.

COMMODORE 64

Press SHIFT and RESTORE simultaneously to return you to the main selection screen at any time.

AMSTRAD CPC 464/664

Press CTRL and TAB simultaneously to return to the main selection screen at any time.

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The Professional Touch

MAGIC

The strange, haunting world of magic grips everyone's imagination. Step into that amazing world, learn some of the secrets of the professionals and create your own magic show.

THE BOOK

Become a real magician! Professional hints on presenting a magic act and a collection of simple but impressive tricks that will leave your family and friends shouting for more.

EASY-TO-USE SOFTWARE

Use your computer to rehearse a range of great tricks. Then create your own magic show with the help of a unique assistant – your computer. Complete with music to accompany the tricks, it's the next best thing to actually being on stage!



Macmillan Software