

Magic Tricks For The Beginning Magician

CIGAM FTP 2003

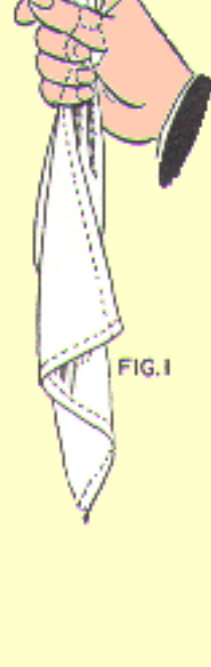
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Trick #1

The Self-Tying Handkerchief

A knot instantly ties itself at the end of a handkerchief!

REQUIREMENTS: One cloth handkerchief with a knot tied in one corner.

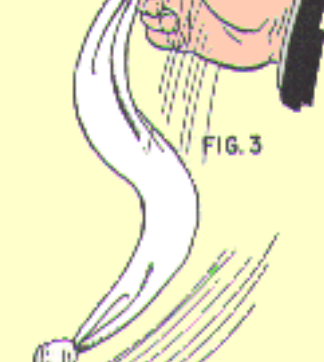
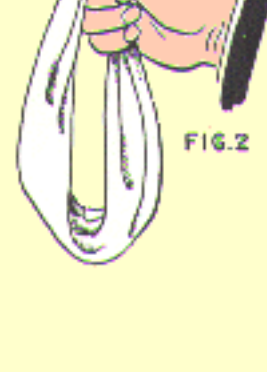


Tell your friends that you can tie a knot in a handkerchief using only one hand!

Pull the handkerchief out of your pocket, keeping the knot hidden in your hand (Fig. 1). Pick up the opposite corner of the handkerchief with the other hand, and grasp it as in Figure 2.

Snap the handkerchief, releasing the end without the knot. Pick up the hanging end with the other hand as before and repeat, again releasing the end without the knot.

On the third try, let go of the knotted end as shown (Figure 3), instead of the expected corner. The movement of the hand conceals the switch, and makes this a very baffling effect.

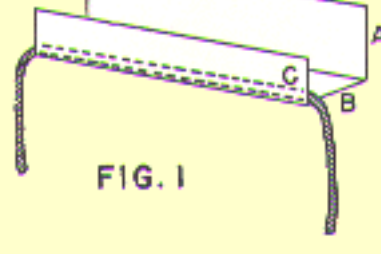


Trick #2

Cut & Restored String

A string or rope is cut into two pieces, and then magically restored into one piece!

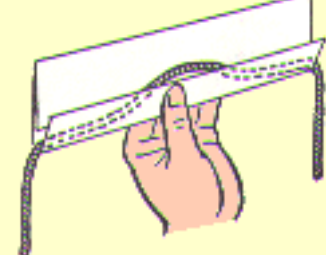
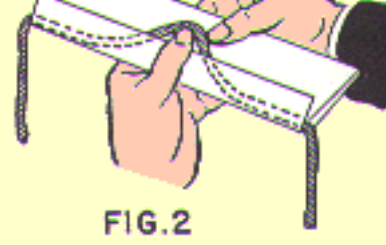
REQUIREMENTS: 1.) One piece of heavy string or thin rope
2.) A piece of writing paper.
3.) A pair of good scissors.



The Cut-and-Restored rope effect is a classic of magic. Prefold a piece of paper before the show so it looks like the paper in Figure 1. When it's time to present the trick, pull out the paper and lay the string in it as shown.

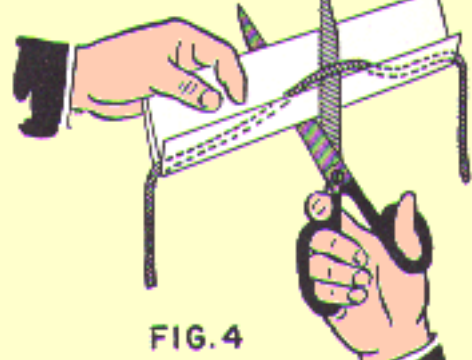
Fold the top of the paper (section A) down, then fold the bottom of the paper (section C) up. Now for the secret move:

When you fold section C up over section A, use your thumb to catch the string as demonstrated in Figure 2. When you prefold the paper before the show be certain that section A is not so long that it will cover the string.



Securely grasp the package as in Figure 3, making sure that the view shown in the diagram is seen only by you.

Cut through the paper, as shown in Figure 4. Cut completely through the paper, dividing it and, presumably, the rope in half. In reality, only the paper is cut in half, the rope is still intact.



Crumple up the paper, and pull the rope out slowly. It is restored into one complete piece! The paper may be examined, and it will be seen to have been cleanly cut into two halves!

Trick #3

Coin Through Elbow

A coin mysteriously vanishes into thin air!

REQUIREMENTS: 1.) One coin.
2.) A table to sit at.
3.) A chair to sit in.

Magic with money is always of interest, and coin magic has the advantage of being done with something that can be carried, or borrowed on the spot!

Display the coin in your hand, and then rub it into your elbow, announcing you are going to make it disappear! After a few moments drop the coin onto the table and say it usually works better with the other hand.

Pick the coin up and pretend to put it into the other hand. Then, pretend to rub "the coin" into your elbow, while the hand that is really holding the coin goes up behind your ear. Drop the coin into the back of your shirt collar, and then show that the coin has vanished, and both hands are absolutely empty!



Trick #4

Houdini Rubber Band Escape

A miniature escape that demonstrates how solid can pass through solid!

REQUIREMENTS: One medium sized rubber band.

This is sometimes also called the Hopping Rubber Band. You loop a rubber band over your first two fingers, and then it inexplicably jumps to the second two fingers.

Begin by placing a rubber band over your forefinger and middle finger as shown in Figure 1. Bring the rubber band all the way down to the base of the fingers. Hold your hand so its back is facing the audience.

Pull the rubber band with your other hand to show that it is solid, and then at a point when the rubber band is still pulled a little bit out towards you, curl your fingers down as in Figure 2.

From your audience's view, it looks like the rubber band is still around only two of your fingers.

Pause for just an instant, and then straighten your fingers out. The band will instantly jump over to your ring finger and pinky (Figure 3)!

To make the rubber band jump back to your first two fingers, follow the same moves again.

If you twist a second rubber band over the fingers above the first band, as in Figure 4, so that the fingers appear tied together, and then follow the same moves for the trick as above, the first rubber band will still be able to jump, seeming to penetrate right through the second band!



Trick #5

The Vanishing Knot

Make a knot disappear from a rope or handkerchief, even a borrowed one!

REQUIREMENTS: One handkerchief or woman's scarf. A soft rope can also be used.



Here's another classic effect! To perform this trick you must twirl a handkerchief into a ropelike shape, and then hold it between the index and middle fingers of each hand, palms up, as shown in Figure 1.

Take the end in your right hand (if you are right handed) and lay it between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand, as in Figure 2.



In Figure 2 you are still holding onto part of the handkerchief with your right hand. Use your right hand to position that part of the hankerchief between the second and third fingers of the left hand, as you reach through the loop with your right hand and grasp the closest dangling end (Figure 3).



Pull that end through the loop, being certain to keep your grip on the part of the handkerchief between the left second and third fingers (Figure 4). As you pull the end through with your right hand, you will notice a loop forms around your left middle finger. Withdraw your finger, leaving the loop hidden behind the knot, and display the hanging knot as in Figure 5.



Now, blow on the knot while giving it a gentle shake, or while pulling lightly on the free end with the other hand, and the knot will disappear into thin air!



Trick #6

Challenge Knot Tie

Challenge your friends to tie a knot in a piece of rope without letting go of the ends. None of them will be able to do it, but you will!



REQUIREMENTS: A piece of rope 3 or 4 feet long.

This is an easy one, but it will baffle people who don't know how to do it. Hold the rope as in Figure 1, and give your friends a chance to try to tie a knot in the rope without at any time letting go of either end. When they give up, take back the rope and lay it down on a table.

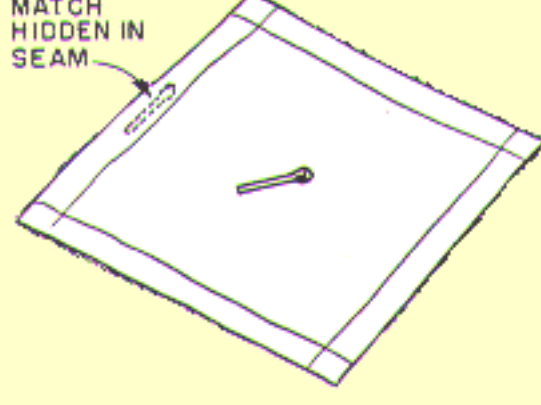
Now for the secret move: Cross your arms before you pick up the rope!. Pick it up one end at a time to make it easier to grasp. When you uncross your arms, a knot will appear in the middle of the rope, without your at any time releasing either end!

Trick #7

The Unbreakable Match

A wooden match or toothpick is wrapped in a handkerchief and broken by a volunteer. At your command, it is restored into one piece!

REQUIREMENTS: One handkerchief with a hem, two wooden matches or toothpicks.



Conceal a toothpick in the hem of a handkerchief.

Display the handkerchief, and several other toothpicks you have brought with you. Then, have a volunteer point to one of the toothpicks. Pick up the toothpick they chose, place it in the center of the handkerchief, and roll the handkerchief up with the chosen toothpick in its center.

While you do this, take hold of the toothpick concealed in the hem of the handkerchief, and hand this to the volunteer. Have him confirm that he can feel the toothpick through the handkerchief, and even invite him to break it in half!

When he does, take the handkerchief back and break the hidden toothpick again! Everyone will think the toothpick that's been broken is the same one they saw you roll up in the handkerchief a few moments earlier. Now, slowly unroll the handkerchief and show the toothpick, still in its center, and completely unharmed!

Trick #8

The Mysterious Coin Balance

You can balance a coin at your fingertips, but no one else can!

REQUIREMENTS: One large coin, one straight pin

Here's a great trick to demonstrate

your mastery of mind over matter!

Have a regular straight pin concealed in one hand, between the first two fingers. With the other hand, pull a coin out of your pocket and allow it to be examined by the audience, or borrow a coin from one of them!

When you get the coin back, lay it down on top of the straight pin in your other hand. Now, raise the coin to a standing position near the ends of your fingers, and as you do raise the straight pin with it, making sure no one but you knows the pin is there.

Keep pressure on the pin held between your two fingers, and the coin will balance there as if held by unseen forces! You can talk about mind over matter, or wiggle the fingers of your other hand over the coin as if that was where your power emanated from!

After a few moments, slowly release pressure on the pin, and it should let the coin gently drift back down onto your fingers! Don't forget to get rid of the pin while people are examining the coin again!



Trick #9

The Hypnotized Handkerchief

Hypnotize a handkerchief to move at your command!

REQUIREMENTS: One handkerchief with a hem, one drinking straw



In order to perform this effect you will need to take a drinking straw and flatten it out. This is easier with the old fashioned paper straws, but a plastic straw will do. Be careful not to mangle the straw as you flatten it.

Next, sew the straw into the hem of a handkerchief as shown in Figure 1. Make certain the straw is secured in place so it won't slip down in the hem.



When ready to perform the trick, grasp the corner indicated with an "A" in Figure 1. Tie a knot in that corner and let the handkerchief hang down from the knot. Announce you are going to "hypnotize" the handkerchief.



With your other hand take the middle of the handkerchief where corner "B" is, as in Figure 2, and drop the knot. Gesture with your free hand as if "hypnotizing the handkerchief. By moving your thumb on the straw, you can cause the handkerchief to slowly rise until it seems balanced on your fingers (Figure 3), and then gently drop back down!

Trick #10

Afghan Bands

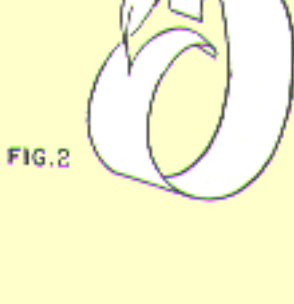
Also known as "The Perplexing Mystery Of The Moebius Bands", this is a self-working trick that seems to defy logic! A loop is cut in half lengthwise, but instead of two loops, you have one long loop! You try again, but now instead of two separate loops you have two loops linked together! Even you will be amazed when it happens!

REQUIREMENTS: A strip of newspaper or cloth cut about 4" wide by 3' long. Cut it so the the grain runs with the length of the strip. Paste or glue.

Moebius strips are a mathematical oddity that can be used in magic to produce unbelievable results. Basically, a moebius strip is a loop which has been cut at one point, given a half twist, and reconnected. It now has only one side and one edge. I know that sounds weird, but try making a simple moebius strip out of a 2" wide strip of newspaper, and run your finger around the edge. It will first go around the outside of the loop, then when it reaches the twist it will go all the way around the inside of the loop, and when it reaches the twist again, it will go all the way around the outside again. It literally has only one side, or edge.



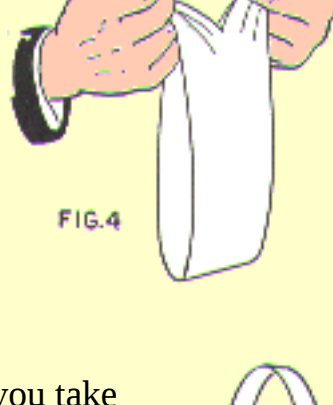
To prepare the trick: Take your strip of cloth or paper (if you use cloth make sure it is easily tearable). At one end cut a slit about 3" long down the middle of the band. At the other end cut another slit along the middle about 1 inch long (Figure 1).



Bring the ends of the cloth or paper together to make a loop. But, before you connect the ends with glue, give one of the 3 inch slits a half twist (Figure 2), and the other a half twist a full twist (Figure 3). Then, glue the ends together as in Figure 3.



To perform the trick: Take the prepared loop and tear it down the middle into two loops (Figure 4). You will now have one loop with a half twist in it, and one loop with a full twist.



Now, for the really weird part. When you take the loop with the full twist in it and tear it down the middle, everyone expects you to get another two complete loops, AND YOU DO... ONLY THEY'RE LINKED TOGETHER as in Figure 5!

And, when you take the loop with the half twist and tear that loop down the middle, instead of two separate loops or two connected loops, YOU JUST GET ONE BIG LOOP! (Figure 6)



Try it and see

NOTE: It is important when you cut or tear the bands that you stay in the center all throughout the cut. Start the tear at one end, or place the scissors in, and then carefully cut in a straight line, staying in the center of the band and working your way around the center of the entire band until you reach the point where you began.

Trick #11

Magic Question-Answering Pendulum

The pendulum answers questions "Yes" or "No" by how it swings, even when held by a volunteer!

REQUIREMENTS: A pendulum, which is practically any kind of weight suspended from any kind of string. If you have a crystal hanging on a silver chain, this will do perfectly. You can also use any kind of bead, or a fishing weight, or even a hardware washer, and tie whatever kind of weight you come up with to the end of a string. It's a pendulum!

Hold the pendulum yourself, or have someone else hold it. Have whomever is holding the pendulum ask a question, and without their doing anything, the pendulum will begin to swing! It will swing in a straight line for "Yes" (Figure 1), and in a circle for "No" (Figure 2).

Even if you challenge the person to hold the pendulum still, no matter how hard they try to keep it steady it will continue to answer every question!

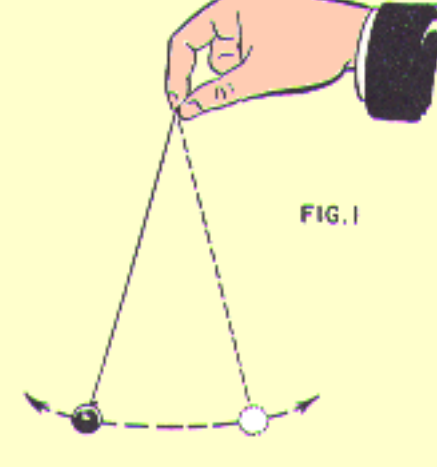


FIG. 1

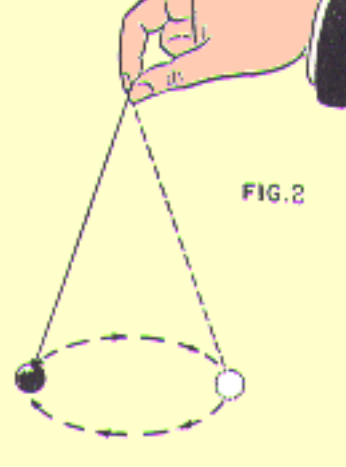


FIG. 2

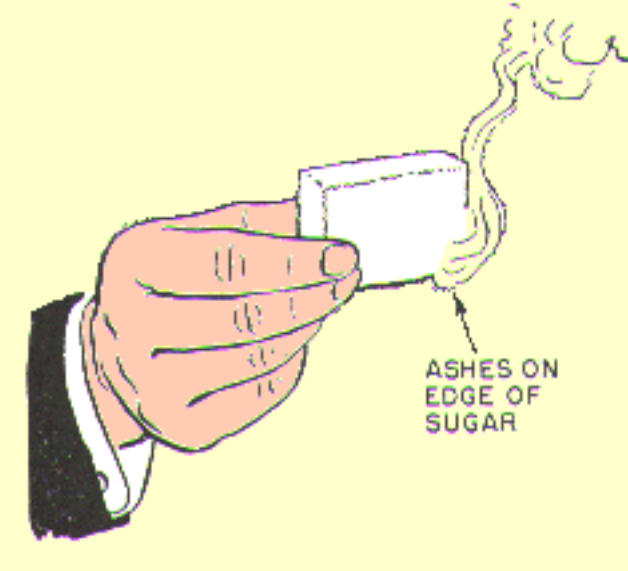
This is practically real magic! The pendulum historically has in fact been used as a divining tool, and nobody is really able to explain exactly how it works. Most likely, it is the subconscious effect of the thoughts of the person holding the pendulum's string that influences the way it swings. Or not...

Trick #12

Burning Sugar

You can make sugar burn, but no one else can!

REQUIREMENTS: Several lumps of sugar, some cigarette ashes, matches or a lighter.



In this age of granulated sugar substitutes, and with the fortunate decline in the popularity of smoking, both lump sugar and cigarette ashes are becoming less common items. Not that this won't work with granulated real sugar, but it is more impressive with lump.

If you have access to both items, you can perform a scientific magic trick that has become nothing short of a classic!

Normally, if you try to light sugar with a flame, it may bubble and melt, but it

won't actually catch fire. Unless you know how.

Challenge the members of your audience to light a cube of sugar, and pass out several cubes of sugar to them. While they are attempting to get one of the sugar cubes to light, secretly get some cigarette ash on your finger tips. Try to get as much as you can.

Have an audience member select a sugar cube, and as you pick it up transfer the ash to the sugar cube. Now, hold a flame to the portion of the cube with the ash on it, and it will light easily!

Trick #13

The ABRACADABRA Card Trick

Here is a great card trick that has the advantage of being self- working!

REQUIREMENTS: 21 random cards from any deck.

To perform the trick: Take 21 cards and deal them out into three columns by dealing seven rows of three. Deal three cards across for the first row, then another card on top of each for the next row, and so on until you have seven rows of cards in three columns for a total of 21 cards. Make sure you deal out each of the rows so you can still see the cards behind it.



Now have someone think of any card in one of the columns, and then tell you which column the card is in. Pick up one of the other columns, then the column he chose, and then the last column, so that the column with the chosen card is between the other two.

Deal them out again the same as before, and have your volunteer tell you which column the card is now in. Again, pick up the cards so that the column he pointed to is between the other two.

Repeat the process of dealing out the cards, having him tell you which column his card is now in, and picking up the cards so that the column with his card is between the other two columns. You have now done this three times, and it's time to find his card!

Hold the cards face down in your hand, as if you were going to deal them out again, but instead ask your volunteer if he has ever heard the magic word ABRACADABRA. Say that not many people know it, but ABRACADABRA is a magic word for finding things, and that you'll show him what you mean.

Spell the word ABRACADABRA, and for each letter deal one of the cards face down on the table. When you reach the last "A", pause, and then turn over that card. It will be the chosen card! As long as you spell ABRACADABRA right, this trick will work everytime!

Trick #14

The Magnetic Knife

A common table knife magnetically clings to your hands!

REQUIREMENTS: One table knife.

A magician should be able to perform magic anywhere he goes! This one is good for the dinner table.

Interweave your fingers as in Figure 1, but don't pick up the knife yet. When you interweave your fingers, secretly leave the middle finger of one hand loose (Figure 2).

If you arrange your fingers right, no one will be able to tell one finger is loose when looking at your hands from the other side!

Now, pick up a knife from the table by secretly placing it behind the finger as shown, but hold your thumbs as though they were keeping the knife in place.

Slowly, with a look of great concentration, release your grip on the knife with your thumbs. It will seem as if the knife is magnetically attached to your palms! After a few moments, drop the knife, and allow the knife and your hands to be examined. It's magic!

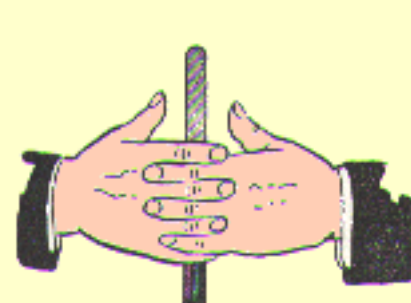


FIG. 1

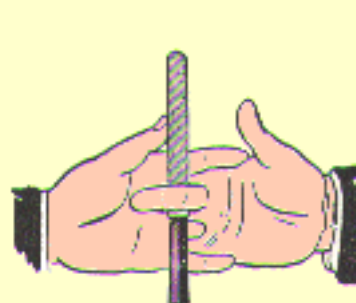
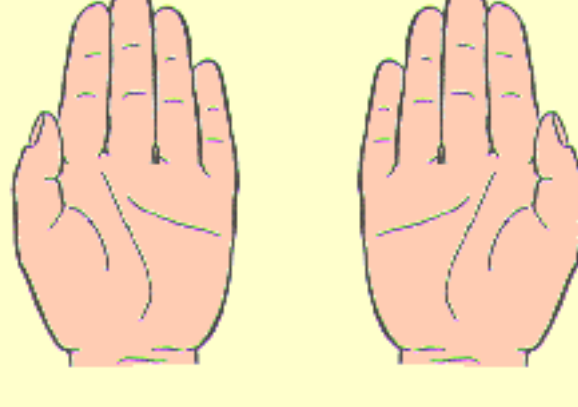


FIG. 2

Trick #15

Eleven Fingers

The art of magic oftens involves the seeming ability to defy the laws of logic. With this stunt you can convince your friends that you have eleven fingers!



Requirements: Ten Fingers

Tell your friends that you have eleven fingers, and you can prove it! Using your right forefinger to point with, touch each finger of your left hand, counting "One, two, three, four, five". Then with your left forefinger count the fingers on your right hand, "Six, seven, eight, nine, ten".

Say "Funny, I know I had eleven. Let's try again". This time count backwards, pointing to the fingers of the left hand say "Ten, nine, eight, seven, six...". Then stop, hold up the right hand and say "Plus five equals eleven!". Do this quickly, without pausing!