

DAVID BLAINE

Secrets Revealed

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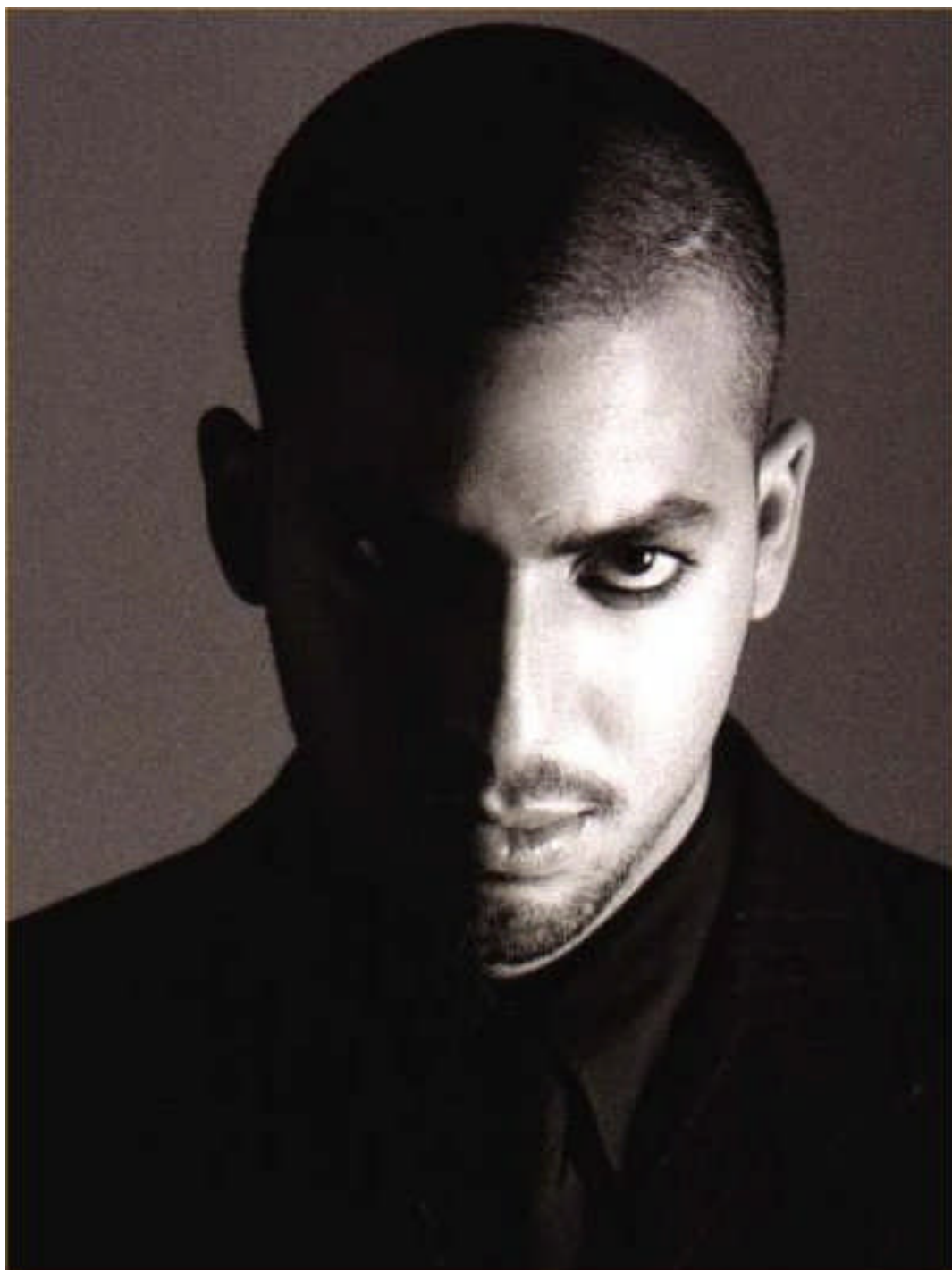


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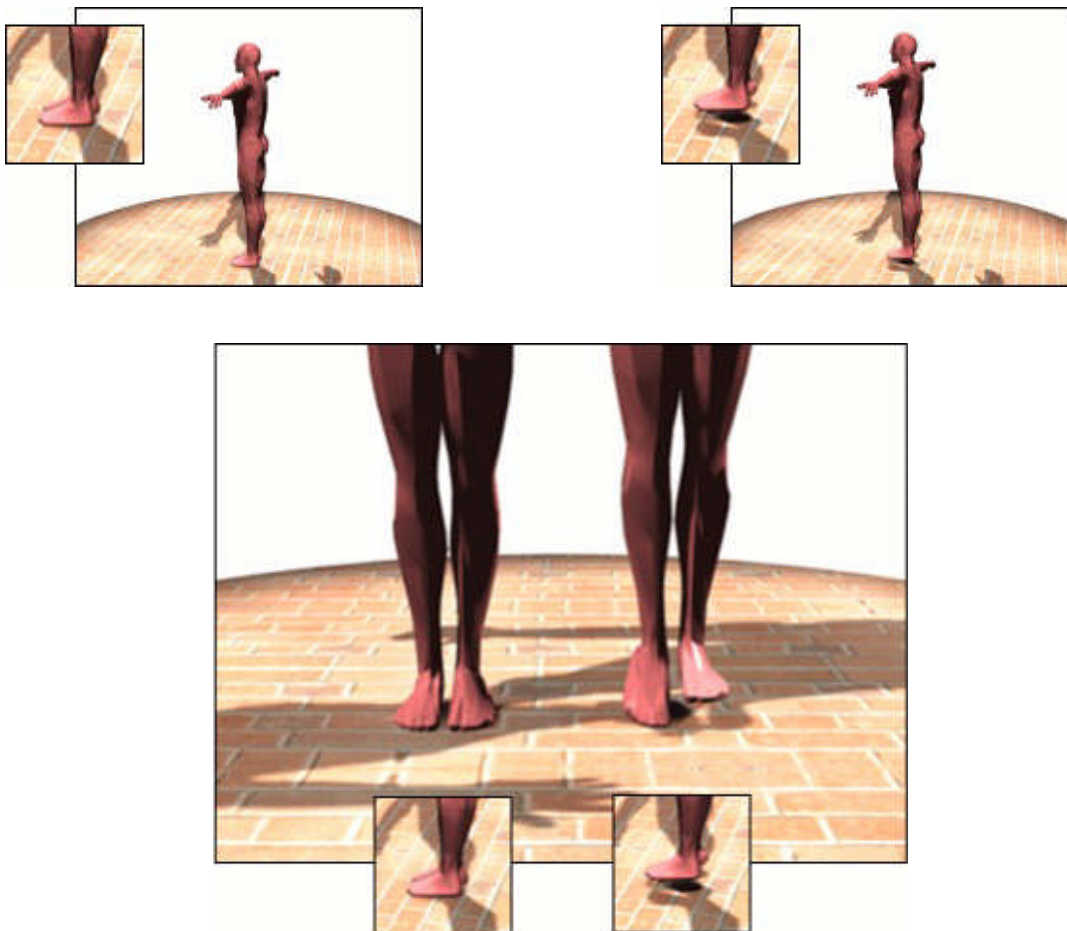
The Balducci Levitation

Intro

The Balducci Levitation is an illusion that can be performed anywhere, anytime. The illustration to the left show you the audience point-of-view. Stand about 8 to 10 feet away from the audience at a 45° 'backward' angle. This is an angle sensitive trick. You have to practice your angles over and over to get used to them. One bad angle or position and the illusion is blown!

The Secret

All there is to do is pretend to "float off of the ground while you tippee-toe on just one foot (the foot furthest from their view) as shown to the right and below. The audience can not see your supporting foot because it is hidden by three things: your pants, the angle of the trick and your closest shoe (which hides their view of the foot being used to "levitate" you.) You might only rise 3 or 5 inches off of the ground, but it's all in the presentation! You will want to slowly rise off of the ground . . . wait a few seconds and then drop fast. Stay up too long and they will probably figure it out.



Different Views

Showing an exposed view and two audience views before and during the levitation.



This is what it should look like if done right.
Good luck and enjoy the illusion!

Zero Gravity

A different levitation!

David Blaine is not the originator of this illusion. He has made the illusion popular, once again, with his television special,

"David Blaine: Street Magic." But, we never really get to see Blaine performing the Balducci Levitation. We watch several

times as Blaine performs it for others, but we never get to see the Balducci Levitation for ourselves.

For the television special, Blaine performed the Balducci levitation in front of several hundred different groups of people,

and the camera was angled only to catch their reactions. The method he used for this is the Balducci method, described

above. While taping all the hundreds of performances, the producers keyed in on the audience members with the most visual

reaction. After the Balducci levitation, the producers of the show had these same people stand by for another taping of the

illusion, this time the camera would shoot from behind the audience members to get a clear view of Blaine in action. The

audience members were told that this second performance was to show them how magicians could use wires to levitate.

And this is exactly what happened. A small harness and rig (just out of camera view) was set up and Blaine performed a

standard wire-suspension.

What Blaine did was a camera trick - known as a post-production edit. The audience at home watched the second (wire

suspension) levitation performance, with the audience reaction of the Balducci levitation edited in. It was said, in the

television special, that no strings or wires were used to perform Blaine's levitation and there are no camera tricks.

This is a

lie, his show is basically based on camera tricks, editing and production. DAVID BLAIN IS A LUCKY, AMATEUR MAGICIAN THAT WAS IN THE RIGHT PLACE AT THE RIGHT TIME! Nothing more, maybe less.

Magic is a live art, not based on TV special effects. If you want to see that, I suggest you enjoy a movie like Star Wars.

Blaine, can not perform 80% of his effects, on either special, live. Besides, every trick he performs is not his and has been

created by someone else, which he also performs poorly as well. He was never a street magician or even a magician before

these shows, just some pathetic kid. He 'DID' fool you didn't he!



The Twisting Arm Illusion

Magic Effect

Asking a spectator to copy your actions, the spectator will attempt to rotate their arm like yours in a 360 degree circle. To their amazement, they can only rotate it a tiny bit while you rotate a full 360 degrees right in front of them.

Preparation for the Illusion

All you need is just a long sleeve shirt pulled all the way down to your hand.

Secret Method of the Magic Trick

The secret to this illusion is to distract the spectator while you set up your hand correctly. Rotate your right hand clockwise till your fingers are pointing towards your body. This probably will be uncomfortable (least it was for me!), but the more you practice and stretch, the easier it gets. Plus, the effect is well worth it! Twist a bit more while your fingers are touching the surface (the table if you are doing it there, or the ground). And now your hand should be pointing to the left. When in position, you should have now twisted your hand about 270 degrees CLOCKWISE till its facing the left.

The key to doing this is not letting your spectator know that you are twisting your arm like this. A good way to do this is to put your hand down like his pointed to the left, then distract him. You may distract him by saying something like "your doing it wrong, do exactly what I am doing" or "maybe you should move a bit to get a better view" then push him with your free hand and set your arm up while he is distracted.

Now start your rotation, and have him start his, twisting your arm COUNTERCLOCKWISE. His will stop after a short bit, but yours will keep going! All the way around. After you finish, there is added moves and effects you can do to twist even more in front of the spectator.

SEE IMAGES ON THE NEXT PAGE FOR EXAMPLES

The Twisting Arm Illusion Images



Cigarette Through Coin

David Blaine again used this impressive money trick where he pushed a cigarette through a quarter.

This trick uses a very clever gimmicked coin where the middle of the coin, temporarily opens to let the cigarette through and later closes so that the hole is virtually invisible to the spectator.

This coin is available through good magic suppliers and is a great addition to any magicians collection.



Psycho Kinetic Time

On David Blane's second show, David Blaine borrowed a watch from a spectator. He then had the spectators notice the current time, and placed the watch face down in the spectator's hand. David Blaine placed his hand face down over the spectator's hand covering the watch. He doesn't touch the watch again after that. The magician then ask the spectator to call out a number and then concentrate on that number and the watch. He opens his hand, turns over the watch to reveal that the watch has advanced the amount of minutes that the spectator called out!

What is needed for this Magic Trick

Find a spectator wearing a watch with a long stem that is easy to manipulate quickly . SEIKO analogue watches are good. You also must have a watch with the wrong time on it (probably off by a few minutes). This is for your misdirect.

How The Magic Trick Is Done

Ask a spectator with a good choice for a watch. You can refer to your watch being the wrong time and ask to borrow his. Another great way to get their watch is to pick pocket it and make it part of the performance. Be sure to show them that you got it though.

Now direct attention to your watch in the other hand and ask the crowd to check the time on it to make sure you got it correct. This is a very important move because at this time you should be moving the stem on their watch forward 25 minutes. So the better you are at redirecting attention the higher chance you will have on pulling this off. After you have moved their watches time forward by 25, place their watch face down in the spectators hand. Place your hand on top and ask them to pick a number between 10 and 30. A number commonly picked is 25. Anything picked above 20 will probably work since they will not notice a 5 minute difference. Anything between 10 and 20, you can razz them a bit and tell them something like that they need to make it harder for you and pick a higher number. Look deeply into their eyes and act like some great force is interacting. Then reveal the watches time by having the spectator turn it over. If you have distracted the spectators enough you will have succeeded in moving the time forward without their knowledge!

Coffee To Coins

Set up: Get one of those coffee machine dispensed cups made of waxed paper and preferably with a pattern on the outside. Remove the bottom of the cup about an inch up from the bottom with a modeling knife or scissors and then place the cup back together by gently sliding the top half of the cup into the base using a slight twisting action if needed. Stack the cup three quarters full with coins.

Pack the coins in tightly and then pour in a little cold coffee, enough to cover the coins completely.

Coffee works best because it's so dark and will hide the coins. The cup should now look like a normal cup of coffee and is now ready to present to an audience.

Performance : Comment on how the patterns on the side of the cup are magic symbols.

Holding the top half of the cup with one hand, gently push up the bottom half of the cup with a slight screwing action with your other hand, then shake the cup.

As the coins “unsettle” the coffee will spill between the cracks and the coins appear.

This trick can be done with any cup of the waxed paper type that are usually found in vending machines. Be careful not to use hot coffee. Take care when using the modeling knife as it is sharp, even better, if your a kid, get an adult to cut it for you.

Ace Shake

This trick was performed in David Blaine's second special where he made the spectator sign a card, the card was put back in the pack and was made to appear from between two aces.

This page will show you how to do a great version of David Blaine's card trick.

Secret: Give the spectator, the two red aces and tell them to hold them.

Fan out the deck and tell the spectator to touch a card.

Square the deck up leaving their card stuck out to be signed and shown.

Now you secretly put the card into " palm position " when you square up the deck so you can easily palm the card when you want to.

It must stick out of the lower corner of the pack meeting your inner thumb .

Let them sign the card and then hand them the deck, secretly palming their card.

After they are convinced that the card is well lost in the deck, ask for the two aces and sandwich the face down palmed card between the aces, showing only the aces face up.

Tell them to hold the deck openly and start to shake the aces directly over the pack, tell them to watch their card rise from the deck into the two aces, shake a little more loosely and watch as to their amazement, their signed card appears from between the aces.

Coin Bitten And Restored Coin Trick

David Blaine performed this extremely effective trick where a coin was bitten and a piece torn off. The coin was restored when the missing piece was seemingly spat out at it.

This trick was used using a very cleverly engineered coin which is available from good magic suppliers and is switched for the spectators coin.

You can do your own version of the trick by making your own trick coin by looking at the coin trick section of this site. Otherwise there is the professional version available which can be viewed by clicking the above link.

Fly Resurrection

This trick is of medium skill level.

Effect: You are walking down the street and casually pick any spectator.

You ask them to come with you to a nearby car and pick a dead fly off the windscreen.

You hold it in your hand do a few passes with the other hand and appear to be really concentrating and the fly slowly comes back to life to the surprise of the spectator.

Preparation : Freeze the fly for about 10-15 minutes.

Method: You need to catch a fly and freeze it which puts it in a temporary coma, this can be done by swatting the fly hard enough to immobilise it then placing it in a small container in the freezer.

The fly then needs to be quickly taken to a suitable windscreen **IN THE SHADE** and placed there.

It is important that the car is in the shade to prevent the fly from defrosting too quickly.

Then go and find a spectator and take them back to the car which should appear to be randomly picked.

The heat of your hand will revive the fly which should soon start to move.

A lot of this trick is in the actions of you reviving the fly.

It may be necessary to practice how long it takes for the fly to revive itself.

Freezing the fly as quickly as possible with dry ice is a better way of freezing the fly as because it is quicker it causes less damage to the fly.

Voodoo Ash

Effect: A name is written on a piece of paper on a notepad by the spectator, the paper is torn off unseen by the magician, crumpled up and placed in an ashtray. It is then set alight.

The ashes are then rubbed on the magicians arm and the name of the person written on the paper mysteriously appears.

Preparation: You will need a small notepad, pen, ashtray, lighter and a small piece of soap or wax.

Method: The spectator is asked to write the name of a person or favorite anything of theirs on a notepad.

Then to tear of the sheet of notepaper, crumple it up and place it in the ashtray, where the magician then sets the paper alight.

The magician takes the notepad of the spectator and should be able to see the imprint of the name written on the paper above in the next sheet of the notepad.

Looking at the pad should not be made obvious and some misdirection carried out while he carefully takes the small piece of wax or soap and writes the name on the imprint on his arm or hand (**this action should not be visible to anyone**).

The magician can then take some ash from the ashtray and rub it over the wax where it will stick and create an impression of the spectators word to their amazement.

This is a great trick but depends on the magician creating an atmosphere with an entertaining routine nd patter about black magic to enhance the effect and create misdirection to allow him time to pull off the trick.

M&Ms Torn and Restored Magic Trick

Trick Effect And Routine: Tear a corner from a bag of M&Ms. Pour a few M&Ms into your hand. Then reseal the bag by magically melting the corner back onto the bag.

Magic Trick Preparation: Place a few M&Ms into your "thumb tip" (This is a useful gimmick which can be purchased cheaply from most good magic shops) .You will also need to cut a corner off a different bag of M&Ms. You can place this in your thumb tip or just conceal it behind the bag.

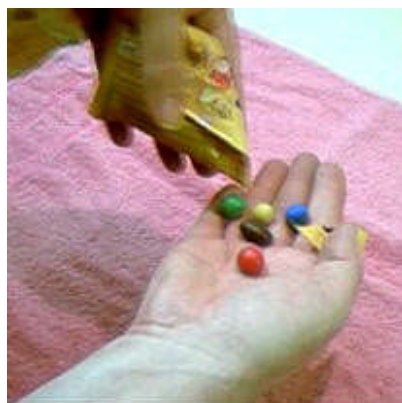
This trick is easier to perform if you sharply **crease the corner** on the bag that you are supposed to rip.

Method: After you show the bag of M&Ms, discreetly slip the plastic thumb tip off your thumb and conceal it behind the bag in your hand (opening facing the corner to be ripped). Remove the extra corner from the thumb tip. Fold the creased corner towards you as you act out the magical illusion of tearing the corner. Pour out the M&Ms from the thumb tip. Secretly replace the extra corner inside the thumb tip as you unfold the **creased corner** . Use a rubbing motion with your forefinger and thumb to give the impression that you are melting the corner back on the bag.

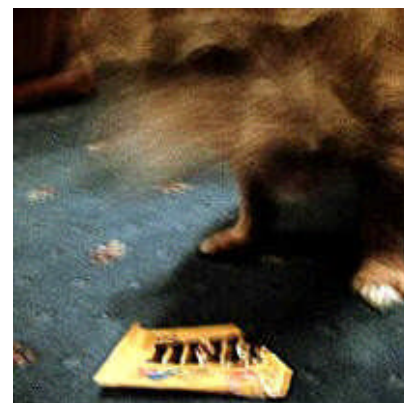
Slip the thumb tip back on your thumb and your done. Hand out the bag for examination! The patter is up to you, but you can tell a story of a candy crook who never gets caught or use your imagination to come up with some other interesting story with a sweet ending.



1) Spectators view



2) Magicians view



3) Beware of M&M Munchers.

Fruit Loops Pop Up Card Trick

Performance:

Incorporated into David Blaine's "Ambitious Card" routine. A signed card is placed into the center of the deck - with a snap of the fingers the card returns to the top. The card is again placed into the center of the deck, another snap of the fingers and once more the card returns to the top.

The magician now takes the end of the face-up signed card and proceeds to bend it almost double, he turns the bent card face down, cuts off the bottom half of the deck and holds the deck at eye level where the bent card can be clearly seen on top. Still holding the cards at eye level the magician places the cut portion on top of the bent card, sandwiching it at the center.

The magician holds his right hand above the cards, a snap of the fingers and the bent card passes up through the deck and pops up on the top, it is displayed and seen to be the signed card !

Method:

Fan the deck face-up and have your volunteer select a card by touching it. As you close the fan, cut the deck **one card below the chosen card** and take that portion to the **top** of the pack. **Pack is still face up at this point** . Turn the deck over and double lift the top two cards displaying the chosen card. Have the chosen card signed on the face. Now return the "**double lifted**" card(s) face down on top of the pack.

Openly lift off the top card and have the volunteer cut off half of the deck - place the spectators chosen card (**really the double lifted card**) onto the bottom portion of the deck and ask the volunteer to place his half of the cut deck on top. Ask the volunteer to snap his fingers - turnover the top card to show that **the signed card has returned to the top** !

Place the signed card to one side.
You now have two problems.

One: You must lose the card in the center again

Two: At the same time you must control the chosen card to a position second from the top (in order to perform the **Pop Up Card** effect).
Both problems can be solved with one move.....

Hold the deck in the dealing position with a little finger break under the top card. The deck is then held (**left hand**) with the deck almost at right angles to the floor, in this position use the left thumb to split the deck halfway saying "That looks like about halfway doesn't it" ? The break held by the little finger should be hidden by the base of the thumb.

Pick up the signed card and bring it in from the rear, giving the appearance of returning the card at the halfway split - **it is actually returned into the break held by the little finger - beneath the top card** . (This move requires a lot of practice in front of a mirror.)

Once the card has been returned, the hands/cards are brought back to a level position. Have the volunteer snap their fingers and with some flair and a riffle, double lift the signed card and place it out-jogged (**face-up**) on top of the deck.

Take the outer end of the face up (**double lifted**) signed card with your right hand and bend it almost in half, then turn the (**double lifted**) bent signed card face down (**leaving it bent**).

The right hand now cuts the deck into two (Biddle grip) and the left thumb openly slips off the top bent card onto the bottom portion of the deck as the right hand (**holding the top portion**) is withdrawn to the right.

The right index finger must keep pressure on the bent signed card which is on top of the half that is being held in the right hand.

Hold the left hand portion at eye level where the bent card can be clearly seen . Still holding the cards at eye level, place the right hand portion of cards on top of the bottom half, sandwiching the bent card in the center.

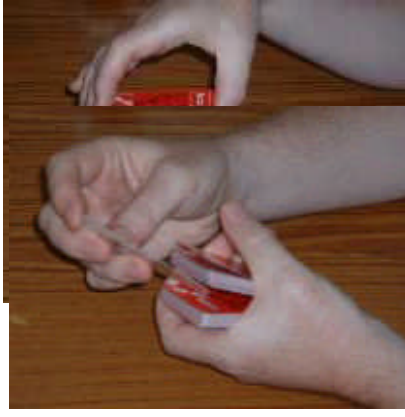
The left hand thumb and index finger must now take control of the deck and hold down the bent signed card on top of the pack, ensuring that it doesn't pop up prematurely.

The magician holds his right index finger above the cards and asks the volunteer to snap his fingers, at that moment the magician releases the pressure on the top card and up it
Pops !!

Turn the card over, to reveal, once again, the signed card.

This trick is good in its basic form but can really be hyped with some good patter and performance from you.

IMAGE EXAMPLES ON THE NEXT PAGE



Cough Cough

This trick requires a lot of practice and is for intermediate magicians.

Performance: The magician has a card selected and signed. The card is then shuffled into the pack by the spectator and it is the magicians job to locate it.

Unfortunately the magician cannot seem to get it right, but after a few attempts, the magician seems to actually regurgitate a tightly folded card.

It is the spectators card, with their signature.

Preparation: You need a pen and a deck of cards.

Method: Have the spectator select a card from the deck and show it to the audience.

After the card is signed control it to the top of the deck by means of a Hindu Shuffle control or a revolving pass.

The deck is now held in the standard dealing position in the left hand (with the chosen card at the top)

Get a finger break under the top card and palm it with your right hand immediately.

Flourish the rest of the deck with a one hand cut, or one hand shuffle with your left hand and offer it to a spectator to simply mix up the cards.

Make sure the spectator starts to shuffle because some stubborn people start to look through the deck looking for their card.

Then turn your back making this move seem natural to show that there is no possible way that you could know where the card is.

At this time you are folding the palmed card into eighths. (The smaller the better) This is easy, as your back is turned you can use both hands to do this and then slip the tiny package in your mouth between your cheek and gum.

Turn around to face the audience. As the card is folded so tightly in your mouth, you can talk normally.

Take the cards and act as if you messed up.

Turn over a couple of cards to reveal what was supposed to be their selection. The card will of course be the wrong selection.

Do whatever you want, just make yourself look bad.

As soon as people start to laugh at you, act as if your hurt, as if something inside of you is wanting to get out.

Make the audience curious, and have the suspense build up.

As soon as they reach their peak work the card out of your lips and and slowly spit the card out onto the palm of your hand.

Unfold it, and watch the audience scream as they see that it is the chosen signed card.

It looks as if you somehow swallowed the card beforehand and regurgitated it back up again.

Two Card Monte Card Trick

This card trick requires a lot of practice and is for advanced magicians

Effect : (This is the card trick that was performed on the David Blaine special and requires a complete mastery of the double lift)

The magician shows the spectator, the **queen of diamonds** on top of the deck. He then tells the spectator to hold the queen face down between his fingers. The performer then shows the next top card, the other red queen.

After several fast sneaky switches of the cards, the spectator is told to guess which card is where ?

When he turns over his hand, he realizes he is holding no aces at all.

Preparation: This trick is done with a regular set of cards

Before performing the card trick, put the black ace on the bottom of the pack, **preferably the ace of clubs, it is less conspicuous** .

On the top of the deck, place the **queen of diamond** s, then the **ace of spades** , then the queen of hearts.

Performance: With the deck set up as above, first show the spectator the (actual) top card. Tell them to hold it between their fingers, face down.

Then tell them to look at the card they have, so they are sure that there was no fancy moves in play.

Using this as misdirection, prepare to double lift the next two cards once they have looked at their card.

Perform the double lift and show them the **queen of hearts** with the ace concealed. Put the cards back on top of the deck, then remove the ace without showing them the face of the ace.

Then pretend to switch the cards, once or twice.
After this say " **OK I'm going to teach you how to do this** "

This time, perform the " switch " very slowly , actually switching the cards.
(Make sure that they do not look at the ace in their hands)
Then, very quickly, making sure that they do not notice what you are doing take the **queen of diamonds** you are holding and put it on top of the deck.

Then steal the card off the bottom of the deck (Ace of clubs) and give it to them.
Then ask them to tell you where the card is.

After you hear their guess, have them turn over their hand and be amazed.

Hindu Gypsy Thread

Effect Performer takes a spool of thread, unravels about a foot of it, & then breaks it : off, putting the spool down. Performer proceeds to break the thread into 6 or 7 clearly broken & different pieces, then holding one piece in one hand, the other pieces are rolled up into a ball and 'squashed' onto the piece from the other hand. When this is unravelled it is seen to be completely restored to it's original length. VERY visual, & very clean, pretty easy to do as well. Here's the routine.

Preparation Only practice & you need a spool of cotton thread, preferably brightly coloured. It has to be cotton, otherwise you will need scissors to cut it. Or you could do a burned & restored thread.

Performance First, before you approach the spectator, unravel about a foot and 1/2 to : 2 foot of thread. Now make a tiny ball of thread out of the extra thread you have, so you should have a ball of thread, then a foot of thread (still on the spool). The ball is tiny enough to fit, unnoticed, into the fleshy part of your thumb & index finger when they are pressed together. Now there should be a couple of inches of thread, then a ball (hidden)(all in your right hand) then a foot of thread & then the spool (in your left hand). Now approach the spectator. Break your foot of thread from the spool, & give them the spool to hold.

It looks like you are holding a foot of thread, when really, thanks to the ball you are hiding between your index finger & thumb (right hand), you have more like a foot & 1/2. Break the 1st piece off, now the piece in your right hand looks like a 5 inch length. Thanks to the hidden ball it is a foot long (your restored thread). The pieces in your left hand can be broken as many times as you like, clearly show the thread to be broken. Now, by rubbing your (LH) thumb & index finger together, make a ball of the pieces of thread and 'squash' the 5 inch thread from your RH onto the ball, at the same time, tucking the ball so it's hidden between your index & thumb (LH). Now the ball you have been hiding the whole trick is visible, it looks like the ball you just made out of the broken thread. It can be unraveled & is restored. Give it to the spectator as a souvenir. As far as patter goes you can pretty much say whatever you want, I'm sure you will anyway.

String Magic Trick

Effect: The magician is seen to roll some thread into a ball in his fingers. The thread then appears to be placed in his mouth and he appears to swallow it. The magician appears to be in pain, when he bares his stomach and visibly pulls the thread out from it.

Items: Thread, two pieces of the same colored thread.
" **New skin** " latex clear paint for covering cuts and grazes or other brand of latex paint.

This liquid paint is normally available from pharmacies.

Method: You need to paint a one to two inch square area on your stomach with the latex. When it dries you can pull it gently away from the skin to form a pocket. Place one piece of thread in the pocket, leaving a small piece sticking out. Cover the latex pocket with make up to match the color of your skin.

The latex pocket can alternatively be made by attaching a piece of skin colored latex that has been cut from a Halloween mask. This could be attached by using the latex paint as glue.

The performance is done by the magician rolling one of the pieces of thread into a ball and then pretending to place the thread in his mouth, retaining the thread between his thumb and finger. Then he pretends to swallow the string.

Remember, in the interests of safety, do not put the string in your mouth. The small ball of string retained between the thumb and finger will not be noticed by the spectator and can be easily discarded out of sight.

The rest of the trick depends on acting the pain enhancing the illusion that the thread has pushed its way through the magicians stomach.

The thread can then be pulled from the latex pocket.

