

Making The Floating Match Effect



By: TinPusher

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Effect:

You have seen magicians make their assistants float, but you have never seen the illusion close-up until now. The assistant is represented by a match. The table, by a playing card. Set the match on the playing card and it soon begins to float above it. To show that there is nothing holding your "assistant" up, you can then slide another playing card between the match and the playing card. The match can now be brought down to the card at your command. The match can now be removed from the card and handed out for examination or as a souvenir

Materials Needed:

8 – 8 inch Invisible Thread pieces
3 – Poker Style playing cards
1 – Box of wooden matches
Scotch Tape
Double Stick Tape

Before you begin:

Make sure you have gathered all of the above items and get ready to make something *truly magical*

Assembly Instructions:

Step 1:

Begin by laying out the eight pieces of invisible thread on a hard flat surface separating each piece by approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch, as illustrated in figure 1 below.

Note you may want to secure the ends of the Invisible thread to your work surface to insure that they are not moved by the force of your breathing etc.

Figure 1.

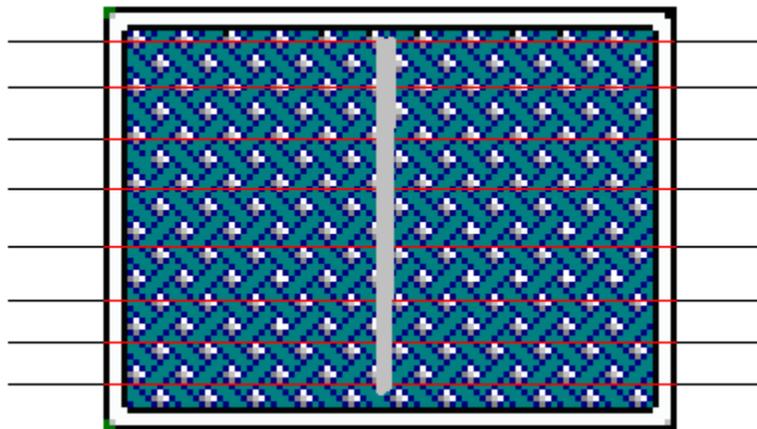


Step 2:

Place one of the playing cards FACE DOWN on top of the invisible thread and fold the ends over securing them to the center of the playing card with a SMALL AMOUNT of scotch tape as illustrated in figure 2 below. This is in effect creating eight tight loops of invisible thread around the playing card

Note the invisible thread is shown in black before it is secured and in red to illustrate what it should look like after it is secured with the scotch tape shown in gray

Figure 2.

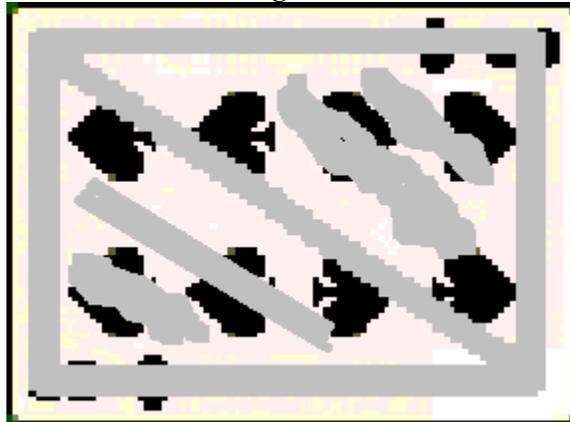


Step 3:

Apply double stick tape to the FACE of one of the remaining cards as illustrated in figure 3 below.

Note the double stick tape is displayed in gray.

Figure 3.



Step 4:

Press the two cards you created in steps 2 and 3 together making a double card.

The end result will look like figures 4 and 5 below.

Note the invisible thread is shown in red in figure 5.

Figure 4. Back View

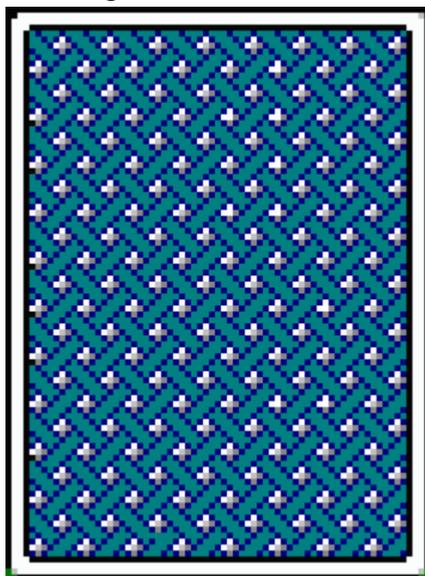
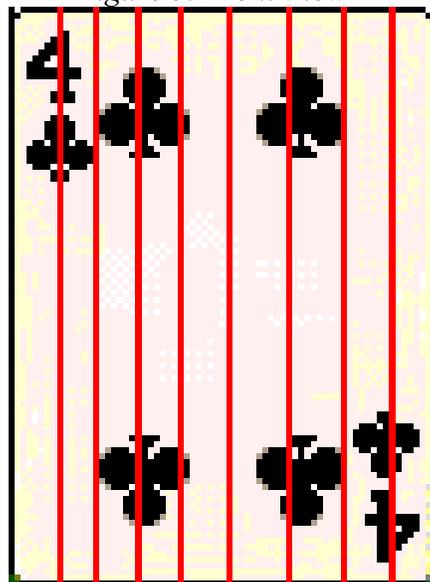


Figure 5. Front View



Step 5:

The construction of your floating match gimmick is complete. You should now have the gimmicked card a regular playing card, and a box of matches. Now you just need to learn how to use it.

Step 6: Method

Tell the spectators that you are going to perform a levitation effect for them, but that you normally do it with an assistant. However because your assistant isn't feeling well you will have to use a substitute. Pull the cards and matches from your pocket and hand the matches to the spectators. (You could also just borrow a match from someone to add to the mystery.) Have them select a match and hand it to you. Place the gaffed card face up in your left palm. With your right hand place the match ACROSS the width of the card. To make the match rise simply bow the card inward. To show that there are no wires etc etc etc take the regular playing card and carefully slide it under the floating match and carefully move it around a little, then slowly withdraw it.. To lower the match slowly release the pressure on the ends of the card.

Note from the author.

This guide was written using a retail "Floating Match" as a guide. If you follow the instructions precisely your new effect will be just as good as if you had purchased one from your local magic store.

The materials needed to complete this project will cost you around \$3 or \$4

However buying the materials will give you enough to produce at least 20 of these effects

This is good as they do wear out rather quickly.

Keep in mind that this guide was designed to teach you how to both construct and use this wonderful effect.

I wish you the best of luck in your attempt at mastering this truly magical prop.

Sincerely,
TinPusher