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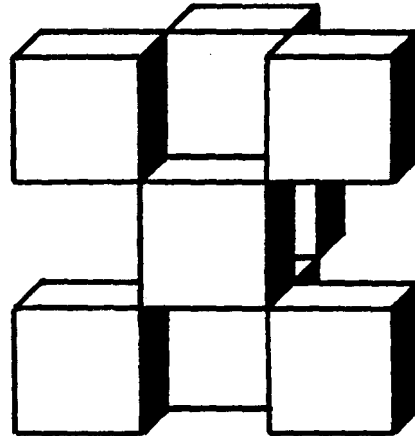
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*Journey Into
Miracle*

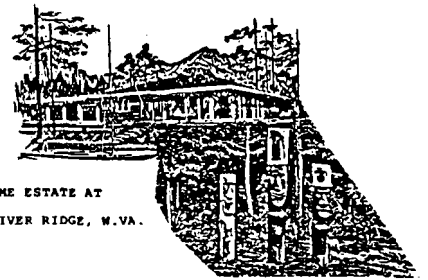
*Technique Supreme
for the Jesseract*



THE AME
MAJOR ARCANA
SERIES

XVI

AL MANN *Exclusives*



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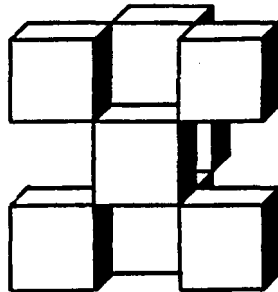
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4/15/94

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Man, the puny mortal, is gifted by the creator with a fourth dimension that reaches far into space without limits. It is his mind. That abstract God-like concept that no one can see, touch or weigh. Yet, to a chosen few, the Magi, is given the power to see the unseen! And comprehend the many mysteries of the tesseract.

I consider the Tesseract effect as one of the greatest of tests that a Mentalist can present. I do it in my shows. The original concept of the test as it stands is so strong that your audience recedes into profound silence. They have never seen the effect before so they are completely mystified. You need do no more after you collect the cards and misread them.

Sophisticated spectators who have seen Mentalists several times know that if they write something down, the Mentalist will read what they wrote. They confess that they do not know how the Mentalist read what they wrote but they do know that he read it somehow. With the principle of the Tesseract, the members of the audience write nothing! Therein lies one of the many mysteries of the Tesseract.

There is a weak point in the presentation but the audience is never aware of it and never has a chance to reach it. One wise guy in the audience may think that the cards you passed out all have the same message that reads, "Please say YES when I ask you if I called out all the words correctly." Another wise guy may

want to see the cards. Some will assume that the persons picked to call out the three choices are stooges. So far that has never happened. The audience is usually stunned. But it could happen.

Subconsciously no one in the audience wants to see the prediction cards. They are afraid that if they see the cards they will discover that you possess the terrible power of prophesy!

* * *

The effect is that you show the audience three business cards and you say that, "I have written three predictions on these cards of strange things that are about to happen. I am going to pass out the cards into the audience so that some of you can see my predictions ahead of time." You then distribute the cards widely, one to the right of the audience. One in the middle and the last to the far left. "At first the messages on the cards will not make any sense but they will shortly." You say. You instruct the persons receiving the cards that they can show the card to their friends closeby but not to let the cards out of their hands.

Actually the three cards that are passed out into the audience all read alike. A word that will be forced later in the show from a book is written on all three cards. Let's say the word to be forced is "What." Since the cards are held by members of the audience who are widely apart, one person holding a card does not know what the other two persons are holding. They each assume that the other cards are different. While the other spectators not holding cards assume that the three prediction cards read differently. They did hear you say that you had written some predictions. And that the three prediction cards are different will be shown shortly by your masterly presentation.

Next members of the audience, who are not holding cards are asked to call out a three digit number, a city and to choose a word from a book.

The three prediction cards are collected and the Mentalist misreads what he had written on the cards prior to the show. He simply calls out the name of the city the number and the word. NOTE that the word is called out last. That avoids any premature outburst of glee from the three persons that were holding the prediction cards. These are then asked, "Was I correct?" to which all three reply, "Yes!". The audience is led to believe that the predictions are all correct. As I said above, the effect is so strong that a profound silence ensues.

As artists we want to close up all the gaps and give the audience a miracle, at least in their imagination. In this new presentation six cards are seen by the audience. So we want to leave all six cards apparently used in the test on the table for anyone to examine or take home as souvenirs.

Here is my new presentation of the Tesseract:

Before the show I prepare a stack of five business cards as shown in Fig. 1. And clip the cards with a paper clip so they remain in the proper order. Or you can prepare the stack of cards in your hands for the stack is quite simple.

The order of the five cards is:

1. Three blank cards on top.
2. The fourth card from the top is outjogged about 1/4 inch at the right edge as shown and has the force word "what," written on it and it faces up.
3. The bottom card is blank and it is out-jogged down about one inch. For the test the paper clip if any is removed and the cards are held in place by the thumb

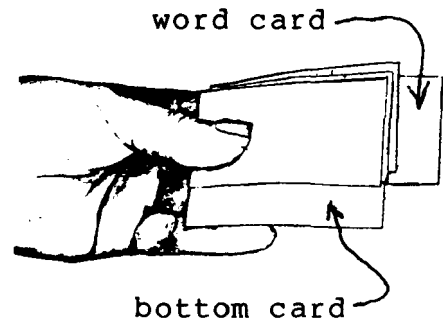


Fig. 1

THE PRESENTATION:

As you stand before the audience, you are holding the stack of five cards in your left hand (if you are righthanded.) While on the tips of your right hand you are holding the three prediction cards that predict the choice of a word and all three cards read alike.

1. You make your speech about the prediction cards and then pass them out into the audience.

2. One member of the audience is asked to call out a three digit number. Say he calls out 149. "I am going to write that down to keep every body honest." You say as you write the number 149 fast on the top card and also on the fifth card as shown in Fig. 2. and pull out the top card (card number one) and give to someone in the audience to hold saying "You are my witness."

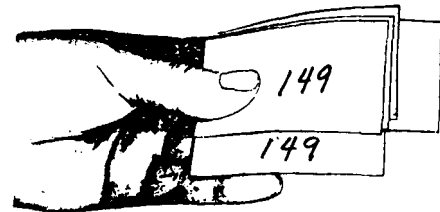


Fig. 2

As soon as the number 149 is written on the bottom card, the bottom card is squared with the rest of the cards but the fourth card, the 'word' card is left sticking out as shown in Fig. 3.

3. Watch your angles. Keep the

palmed cards close to the body. But even if some one sees the cards no one has any idea what you are doing. You are now holding only four cards. The two top cards are blank, see Fig. 3. The cards are not squared closely in the illustrations for clarity.

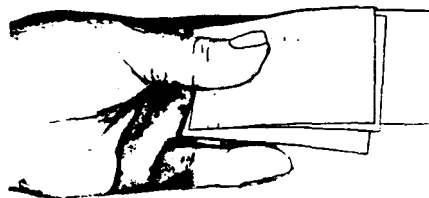


Fig. 3

4. Next you ask someone to call out a city. Say that St. Louis is called. You write St. Louis only once on the blank top card (what was card number 2.). This is shown in Fig. 4. Pull off the top card with the name St. Louis and give it to your witness.



Fig. 4

5. You are now holding only three cards. The top card only is blank. See Fig. 5

THE WORD FORCE: I recommend an easy force like using a book with all pages alike. If you own The Damned Thing, use the book to force number 86 and then tell another person to open a dictionary to page 86 and note the first word.

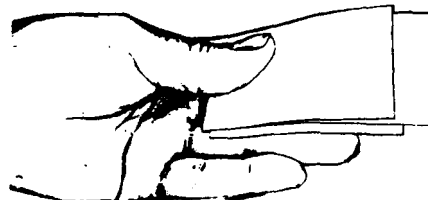


Fig. 5

The force of the page number and the word is done fast. Just have someone stick a card into the book. Open the book and tell the person to call out the page number on the bottom of the left hand page. The use of the dictionary impresses the audience. They will later say, besides other things, that you did something amazing with a dictionary.

6. Force the word fast and pretend that you are writing the force word BUT what you write is the name of the city again on the blank top card as shown in Fig 6. PULL OUT THE PROTRUDING SECOND CARD which has the force word 'what' already written on it and give it to your witness. VOILA! The goose is cooked! The witness is holding three cards with the three different predictions!

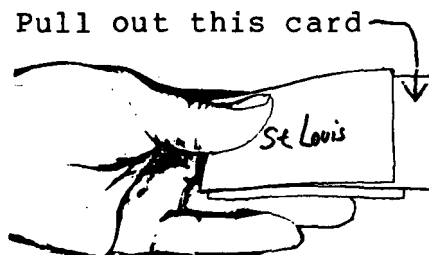


Fig. 6

While you are holding only two cards. The top card reads St. Louis while the second card reads 149 (not shown).

7. Collect the three all alike cards from the audience and place them on top of the two cards you are holding. This is quite easy and hardly noticed since you are moving about in the audience.

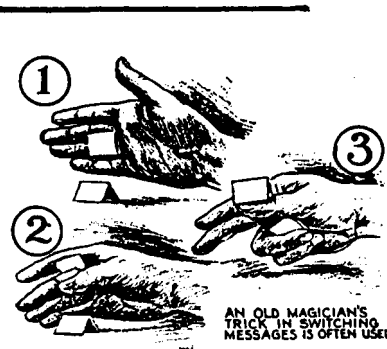
8. Take out the bottom card and ask, "What was the number chosen?" Your witness says "149!" "149 it is!" You say and show the card around and then toss the card on the table. Repeat with the other two cards taking cards from the bottom of the stack. At the end you will be holding two cards that contain the same word "what" written on them. While the audience is in shock, place the two cards writing-side down on the table without fanfare and continue with the rest of the show. After the show pick up the two 'word' cards and pocket them or throw them into your briefcase. But even if the audience was to see the two 'word' cards, they will be at a loss as to the solution.

The three cards your witness is holding can also be left on the table. If the audience picks up these cards after the show they will find nothing amiss and will have your business card.
* * * End of Miracle.

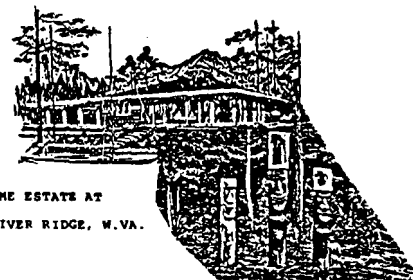
The reader may vary the presentation as he wishes. You may want to force a number instead of a word. My experience has been that it is better to force a word. Some spectators will choose a long word to make you sweat. While giving the audience a choice of any number between 100 and 1000 sounds dramatic and the three digit number is easy to copy twice in the pretence of writing it once.

You may want to use a small clipboard to hold the cards. But again experience teaches that you have a greater control of the cards by holding them in your hand.

Since the number is the only one that is written twice, I do not recommend a double writer. Keep it simple. The least number of gimmicks you use the better.



The Table Bilett Switch exposed by Walter Gibson in Popular Mechanics (circa 1926)



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Bonus

A Test in Circles

THE TEST: A sheet of newspaper is saddled over a two-way display easel, Fig. 7. Both the back and front of the easel is flashed to the audience and shown to contain no markings. One spectator is told to draw a small black circle on the part of the newspaper showing. A second person is told to draw a small red circle on the back of the newspaper sheet not showing. The Mentalist predicts the words circled.

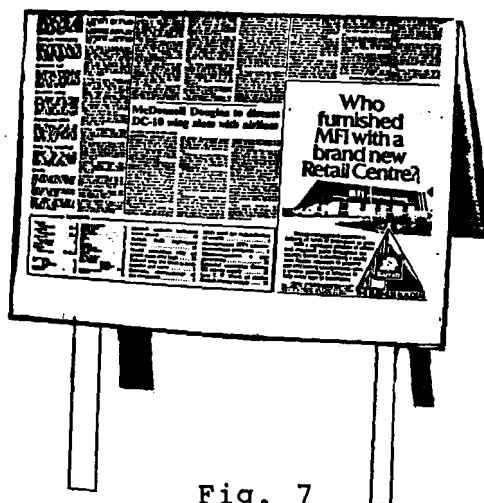


Fig. 7

Solution: The newspaper sheet is gaffed. Note that only the bottom half of the newspaper sheet is showing after it is mounted on the easel. The top half that is on the other side of the easel and not showing is gimmicked by first drawing a small circle with a red ink marker and then slitting the column with a sharp knife above and below the circle as shown in Fig. 8. A piece of column, Fig. 9, is then inserted into the slits to cover the red circle.



Fig. 8

Fig. 9

NOTE that the gimmicking is hard to see so that the easel can be shown to the audience front and back for a flash moment.

The easel need not have legs. A two sided display board can be just placed on a table.

The easel with the newspaper sheet must be prepared before

the show. After the piece of column is inserted over the red circle, a small piece of double sided scotch tape is fixed to the back of the piece of news column, Fig. 9, just behind the word "Airlines." And the scotch tape is fixed to the easel, so that when the newspaper sheet is lifted from the easel the short piece of news column will stay behind exposing the red circle.

You will also need a black ink marker that marks, plus a red ink marker gone dry that does not mark. Plus a small paper pad with the top three sheets blank and the fourth sheet containing a small red circle. You must remember one of the words circled in red on the newspaper sheet.

THE PRESENTATION: You will do a test with a newspaper, you say. Call one person forward and then draw a small black circle on the top sheet of your paper pad making sure that the audience sees you drawing the black circle. Give the black ink marker to the person and tell the person to please draw a circle of about the same size anywhere on the visible part of the newspaper sheet. But first you say, I will write some thing by way of a prediction. You write "One word circled in red will be 'where' on the second sheet of your paper pad. Tear the sheet off and fold it in half and place it aside under an ash tray, for example.

After the black circle is drawn, tell the person to choose any word in the circle. This word is called out to the audience. Say it is 'whatever.'

Have another person come forward as you write your second prediction on the third sheet of your paper pad which reads, "The black circle will contain the word "Whatever." Tear off this sheet, fold it and place it together with the first one under the ash tray.

Watch your angles for now the red circle is exposed on the top sheet of your pad. Hold the sheet close to your chest. And then pretend to draw a small circle on your pad with the gone-dry red ink marker and show the circle that is already there to the person. Give him the gone-dry red ink marker and tell him to draw a small circle about that size on the other side of the easel but with out moving the easel. In other words he has to reach over the top of the easel and make his circle sight unseen.

Take back your marker and lift the sheet of newspaper from the easel by pulling it upwards. That leaves the short piece of column behind attached to the easel and the red force circle can now be seen. Show your predictions triumphantly.

With a bit of thought you can present this effect as a test in mindreading. You simply write the messages after the VIPS have read the circled words while standing across the floor from him..