

FUN & Magical Activities For Kids!

**By Magical Educator:
Brian Richards**

**Tricks that use Science, Math, Spelling and Psychology...
Designed with elementary students in mind!**

About the Author

Brian Richards is a full-time professional school assembly performer sharing programs on subjects like: Anti-bullying, Reading Motivation, Character Development, Personal Safety, Drug Awareness, Success and Conflict Resolution!

While covering a 5 state area Brian is based in Minnesota and is married to his wife Kelly and have two sons, Matthew (21) and Isaac (18). Normally, Brian would be on the road sharing assemblies with schools but with the COVID 19 virus, those events are cancelled. As a result, I have spent a great deal of time thinking about how I can help the thousands and thousands of students who are home doing online school and looking for fun things to do that would go hand in hand with learning.

That is the purpose of this booklet to teach some tricks, activities and games that use science, math, spelling and psychology! I share this fun booklet as a gift to the families and students who are struggling during these difficult times.

Take some time to read and try these FUN activities and if you find them beneficial feel free to visit my facebook page and share what you learned!

Brian Richards

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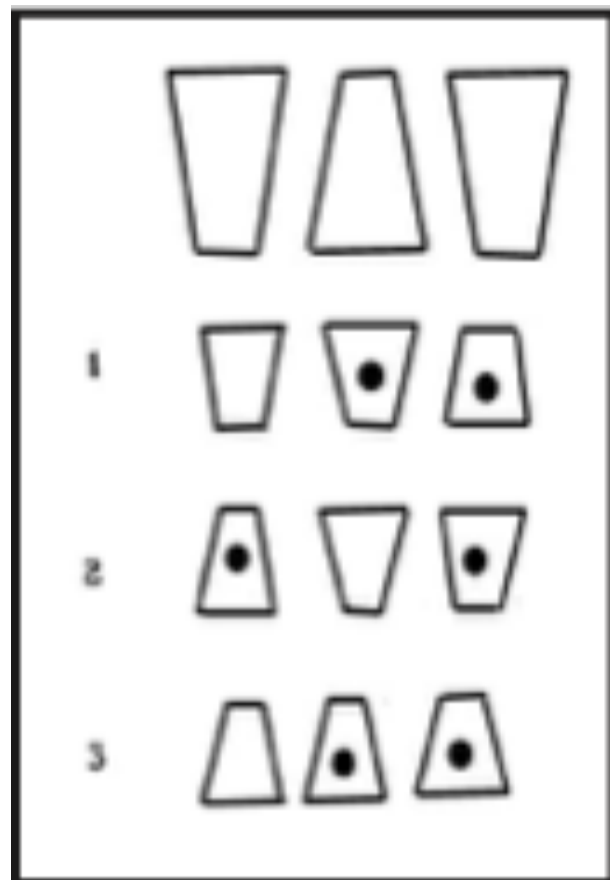
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/4-Ace-Productions-106942287574725/>

URL: www.4aceproductions.com

Three Cup Challenge

Challenge: Can you arrange all three cups so they are upside-down by moving two cups at a time, in only three moves?

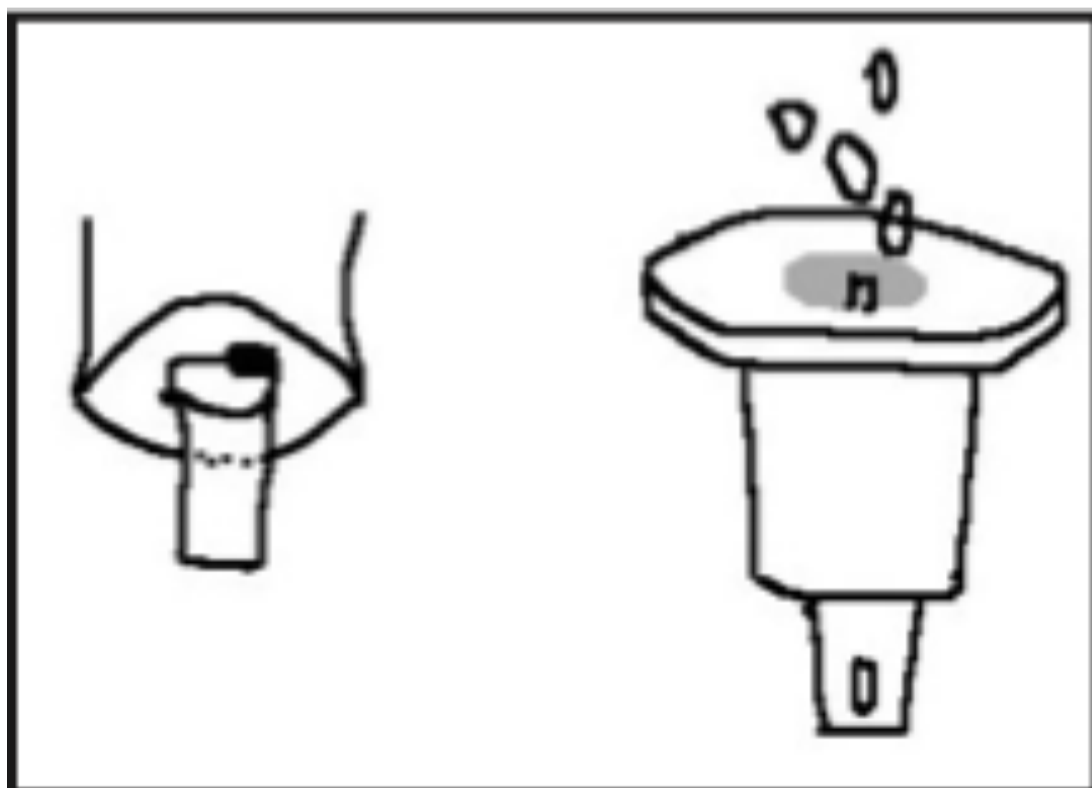
You can if you turn the marked cups as in the picture to the right. Move the cup with the dot (it's shown in the position it will be in AFTER it is moved).



Coins Through a Hat

Effect: A group of coins are dropped into a hat that is sitting on top of a glass. One of the coins does not stop at the bottom of the hat, but instead, passes through the hat and into the glass!

Method: A coin is secretly resting on the rim of the glass and held in place by the hat. When the handful of coins are dropped it jars the hidden coin loose creating the illusion that a coin has passed through the hat. If you don't have a large hat you can use a box or metal bowl instead!



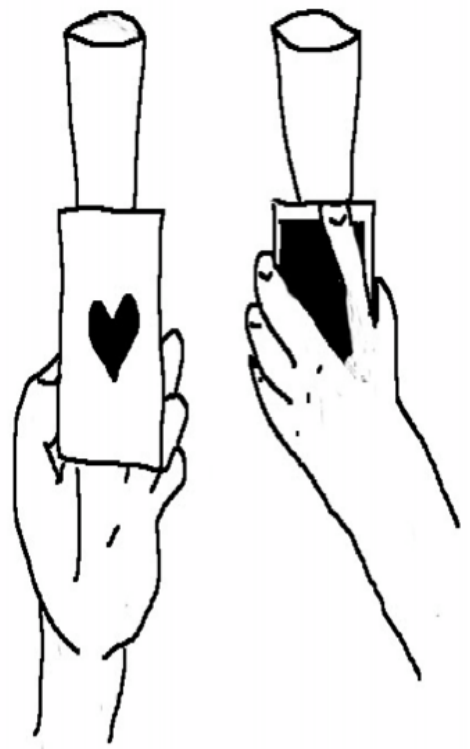
The Magicians Code

1. Practice every trick before you show it to anyone - even your parents! There's an old saying, "A good magician never tells his secrets, and a bad magician doesn't have to." Practice, practice, practice.
2. Never tell your secrets! Once people know how to do a trick all the mystery is gone. Plus, if they can do the trick too, your talent and skill is no longer special to them.
3. Never repeat a trick for the same person. If they ask you to do it again, and they will, they are really looking for an opportunity to catch you the next time.
4. Be a good audience member. Now you possess some of magic's coolest secrets, if you see someone performing you **MUST** treat that person the same way you want to be treated. In other words, don't let them or the audience know that you know how the tricks are done.
5. Most importantly, you should perform magic to entertain and mystify, not to show you are better than others. Remember, always strive to entertain your audience and treat them with respect. Without an audience, there is no magic.

The Balancing Tumbler

Effect: You balance a glass (use plastic!) on the thin edge of a playing card.

Method: The card is really balancing on the edge of the card AND the tip of your index finger as shown to the right. Be sure to use a plastic cup for this and with a little practice it'll look like you have an incredible sense of balance and dexterity!



Quarter for Nothing!

This is more of a gag than a trick, but it's a lot of fun to do.

Hand someone a piece of paper and tell them it's a special kind of paper that is very difficult to tear. Tell your friend that if they can tear it into four pieces you'll give them a quarter.

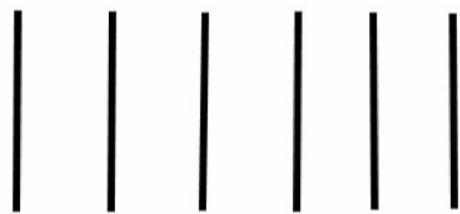
Really it's just ordinary paper which they can tear easily. When they do, hand them one of the pieces of paper. You've just given them a "quarter" of the page!



5 + 6 = 9?

Can you add five more toothpicks to the six shown and end up with nine?

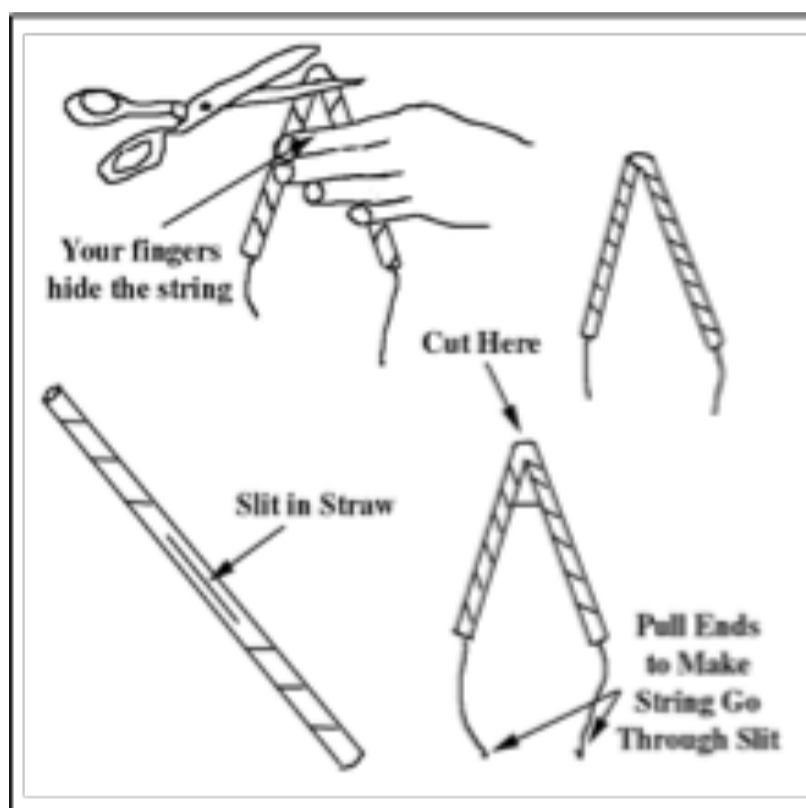
It's easy when you know the secret as show to the right.



Cut and Restored String

Effect: You put a piece of string through a straw and cut the straw in half. Yet when you remove the string it is still in one piece!

Method: Before you perform the trick you have secretly cut a slit in the straw as shown. When you bend the straw in half to cut it you pull down on the strings, causing it to pass through the slit and out of the way of the scissors. Keep the string hidden behind your fingers as in the picture below while you cut the top of the straw.



Mental Miracle Mystery

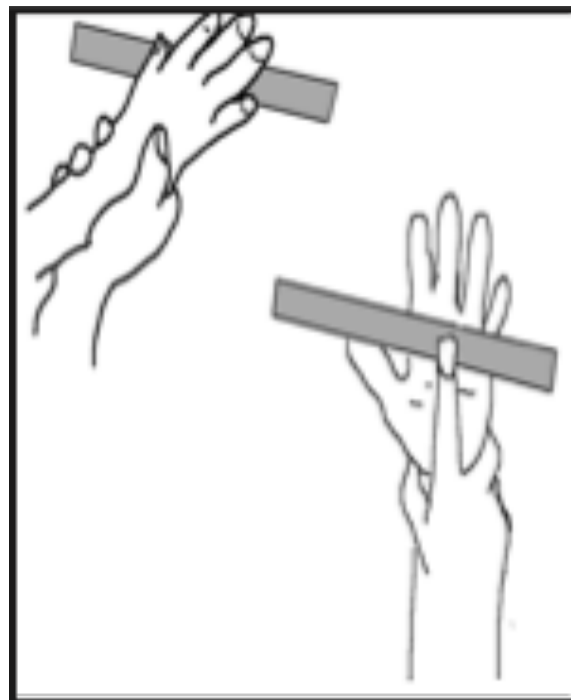
Effect: While you are out of the room, or have your back turned, people select any item in the room to think of. When you return, a friend points to a bunch of items slowly without saying a word. You announce what the item is - and you are absolutely correct! **Secret:** Your friend is in on the trick and acts as your assistant. The third object he points to is the chosen item. Wait until a few more objects are pointed to before making your revelation. If you are asked to repeat the effect, use the fourth item the next time!



Magnetic Hand

Effect: A ruler, pencil or magic wand appears to be magnetized to your hand or held there by static electricity.

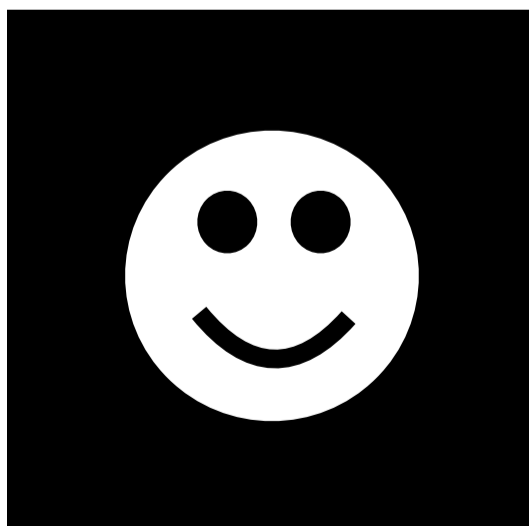
Secret: Your index finger is extended against the palm of your hand and is holding the object in place. The rest is acting on your part.



Magnetic Hand #2

Effect: This is a great follow up to the above effect - the effect to the audience is the same, but changing the method makes it even more baffling!

Secret: An extra pencil gripped as shown holds the wand in place. You can also tuck the extra pencil into your watch band if you have one!

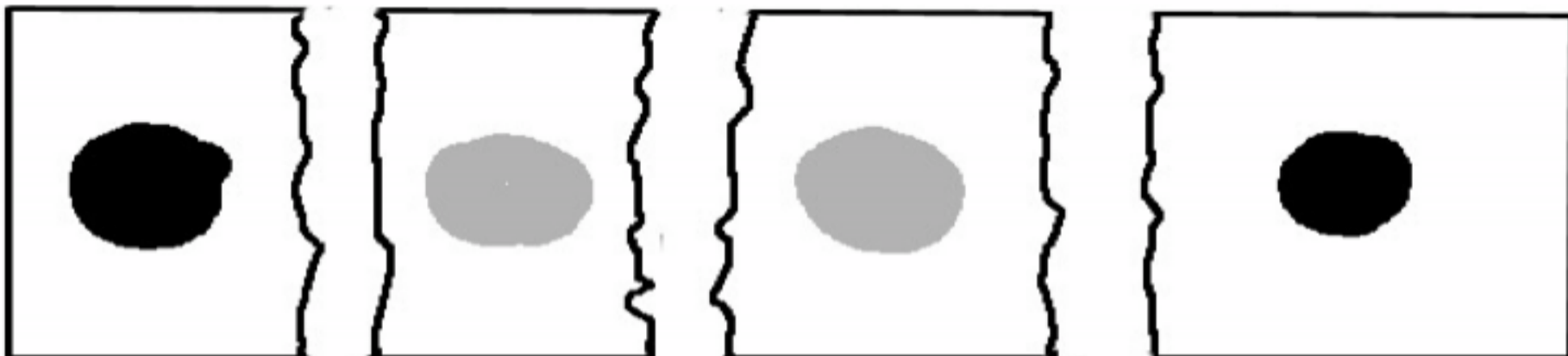


SMILE on the Wall!

Stare at this picture and slowly count to fifty. Now look at a lightly colored wall and watch as a ghost of the image appears on the wall! It's a cool optical illusion. For a scientific explanation look up afterimages...

Colors By Touch

Effect: A strip of paper has two red dots (shown in grey here) and two black dots drawn on it. A spectator tears the strip into four pieces without you looking and drops the pieces into a paper bag. You announce the color of the dot on a piece of paper before you pull it out. You've determined the color simply by touching it! **Secret:** When the strip of paper is torn the red pieces have two rough edges and the black pieces have only one. You simply feel the edges of the paper before announcing the color!

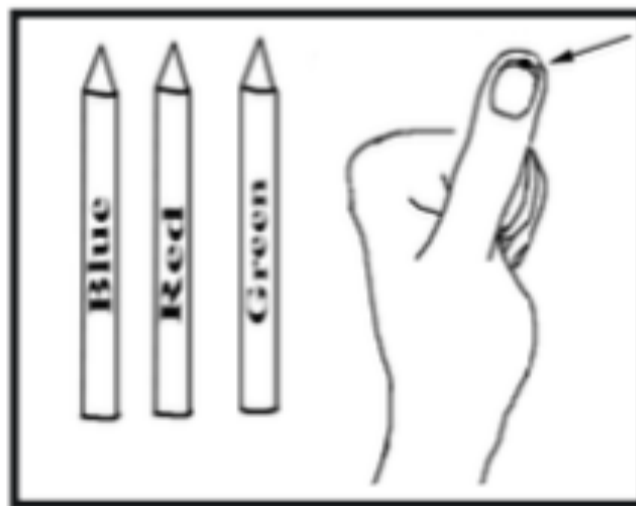


The Crayon Color Prediction

Effect: A spectator is given 3-6 crayons of different colors to choose. He selects one and hands it to you behind your back. You claim that you can tell what color the crayon is, simply by holding it. You then announce the color of the crayon, proving that you can do what you claimed!

Secret: When the crayon is behind your back you dig your thumb-nail into the crayon and get some of the color under your nail. When you bring your hand around to your front you secretly sneak a peek at the daub of color under your nail and you know what color the crayon is.

Performance Tip: Don't be too obvious about looking at your fingernail - you can tell the color quickly - so don't take too long.



Harry Potter Magic Wands...

Are you a fan of Harry Potter? Have I got a very special treat for you! I have the link to a special YouTube video that teaches how to make your own Harry Potter wands that cost next to nothing. All you need are wooden chopsticks and a glue gun + some creativity check it out here:

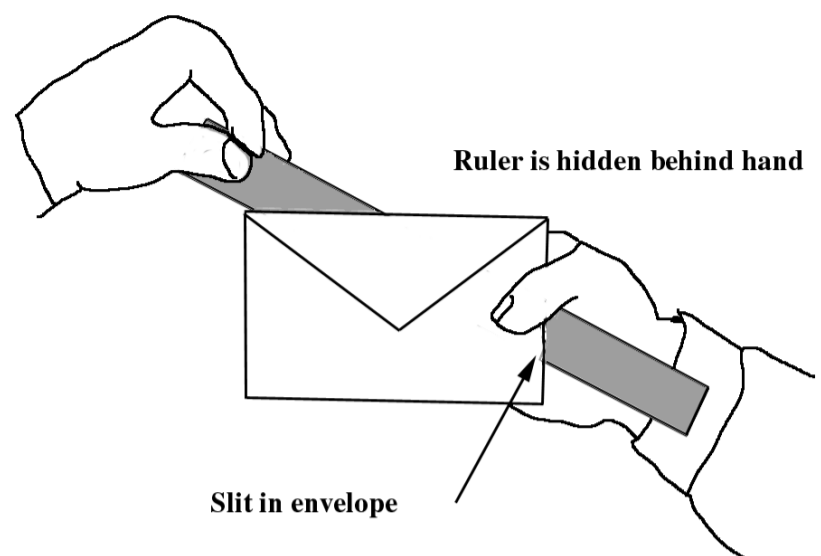
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwBVoAVZ1NY>

Envelope Surprise

Effect: You pull a ruler out of an envelope that is much too small to hold it.

Secret: The envelope has been secretly prepared with a slit in one of the corners. The ruler passes through that slit and is hidden in your sleeve, or behind your hand, the rest of the ruler is in the envelope. You open the flap and pull out the ruler.

Performance Tip: To make this seem even more impossible lay the ruler on top of the envelope to emphasize that it could not possibly fit inside. Be sure to lay the slit down.

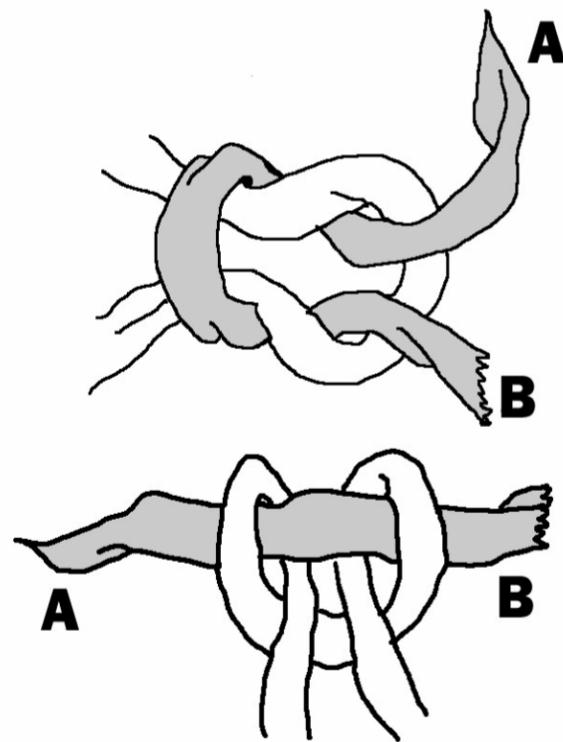


The Mysterious Knot

Effect: The magician ties a knot in two hankies (silk, polyester or other “slick” fabrics work best). He pulls the knots fairly tight and allows them to be examined. The magician then pulls the ends once more to tighten them, but instead they come untied.

Secret: When you pull the ends to make the knot tighter you really pull at points “A” and “B” as shown in the illustration. This “upsets” the knot as shown in the bottom drawing and allows the end to slip off.

Performance Tip: Make sure that you tie a square knot as shown in the top illustration or you really will end up with two very tightly tied scarves!



The Vanishing Picture

Click on the link below and it will bring you to a page that Shares some unique puzzles that makes eggs, leprechauns, Pencils, candles disappear go to:

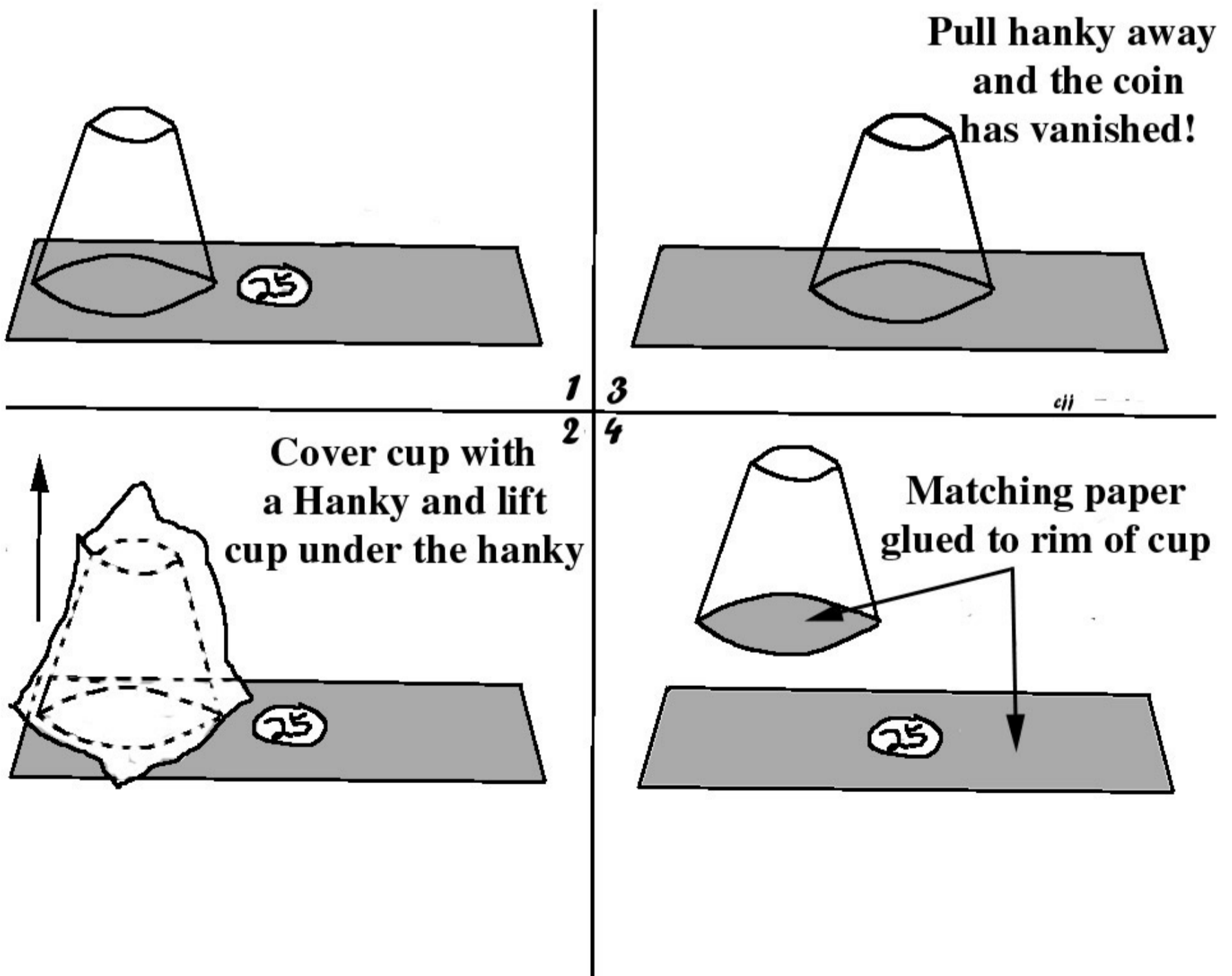
<http://www.marianotomatis.it/blog/research.php?url=20110715>

The Magic Cup

Effect: A clear plastic glass is sitting on a piece of construction paper. The glass is covered with an handkerchief, the hanky and the glass are lifted and then cover the coin. When the hanky is pulled away, the coin has vanished. No sneaky moves, no threads, no wires, no skill required!

Method: This trick relies on the paper “stage” you have laid under the clear plastic cup. As you can see in panel 4 of the illustration below, you need to glue a paper circle, the same color as the paper on the table to the lip of the cup, when you lower the cup (with the paper glued to it) over the coin and then remove the hanky, the coin vanishes. The slight distortion caused by the glass makes up for any slight differences in the grain of the paper.

Performance Tip: Don't forget to cover the glass with the hanky first, THEN lift the hanky and the cup together to cover the glass. Though you could immediately remove the hanky to show it's gone it's more fun to pretend that you are going to quickly reach under the glass and remove the coin without them noticing. Put a little time between the move and the revelation of the magic - this is what magicians call “time misdirection”. WHEN YOU DO THIS TRICK MAKE SURE TO BORROW THE QUARTER!

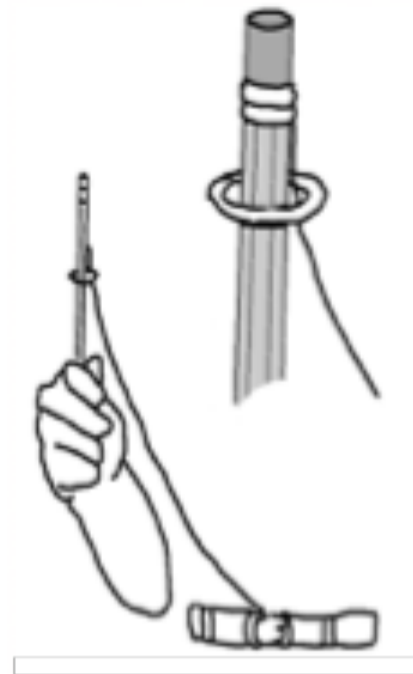


The Rising Ring

Effect: A ring rises and falls on a pencil held at arms length.

Secret: You've attached one end of a long piece of thin black thread to the eraser of the pencil and the other end to your belt loop. The ring goes over the top of the pencil as shown to the right and to make it rise you make the thread taut by slightly pushing the pencil forward or by leaning backwards.

Performance Tip: It doesn't take much tension to move the ring - use as little motion as possible to keep your secret a secret.



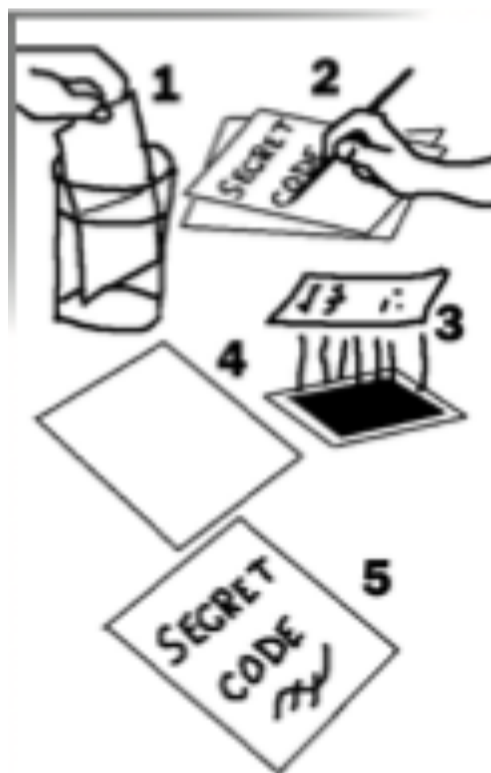
Invisible Writing

Effect: You can write a message on paper and the message will remain invisible until someone who knows how to make it appear does so! It's a cool way to send secret messages.

Secret: You'll need a porcelain tabletop, or Formica counter top in order for this to work. You'll also need two sheets of paper, some water and a hard lead pencil with a smooth rounded point.

Get one sheet of paper wet and lay it on the smooth surface. Put the dry paper on top and write your message. The message will appear on the wet paper, but will vanish when the paper is dry. To see the message again, simply get the paper wet again!

This works because the lead pencil compresses the fibers of the wet paper so they reflect light differently when wet. The writing will be dim, like a watermark, but readable.



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING MAGICAL TO BREAK UP YOUR DAY? How about a Scavenger Hunt Game with items a magician might use. For example: Top Hat, Cane, Cards, Dice, Coins, Rabbit Hankerchief, Rope etc.



Well I hope you found this booklet entertaining and fun because that was my intention. We are living through a unique time and I hope these activities took your mind off your concerns and brought a SMILE to your face!

Here's wishing you a wonderful day and maybe I'll see you at your school next year!!

All My Best,

Brian Richards Educational Entertainer

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