

Quassy MAGIC!

Jim & Sandy Sisti

WELCOME TO QUASSY MAGIC!

**Congratulations on starting
your journey to becoming a
successful magician.**

Inside this book you will find many fun and easy-to-perform tricks with cards, rope, pencils, and even some stage illusions. Several of them are used by full time professional magicians.

As you read through the book find the tricks that are easy and learn them first. Some are harder to learn than others, but that's ok. Stick with it, practice every day and pretty soon you'll get the hang of it. Be sure to read the *Rules for Good Magicians*.

Remember that magic is a performing art. To become a better magician, learn to be on stage. Take theater classes, help out with your school plays, enter talent contests, practice performing whenever possible.

Enjoy the book and remember to have fun with your magic and pay attention to your audience.

Magically,

Jim Sisti Sandy Sisti

RULES FOR GOOD MAGICIANS

HELPFUL HINTS... PRACTICING

Make practice easier by setting aside a certain time each day, maybe just after dinner, for practicing your tricks.

Keep going for about 15 minutes, then stop for about 5 or 10 minutes. This would be a good time to think about the kind of story you'll tell when you do the trick.

Now practice the same trick again for another 15 minutes. You'll find the moves are easier to do now.

It's a good idea to practice the trick and the story you'll tell at the same time. Together they form a "routine".

When you perform a routine in front of people, you may be nervous. This is normal. However, when you have practiced the routine as much as possible, you won't be quite as nervous, because you'll have a better idea of what's going to happen.

MAGICIAN ETHICS

If you see a magician do a good trick, don't ask them how they did it. Just because you're a magician doesn't mean they have to tell you.

If you are watching a magic show, and you think you know the secret to a trick, DON'T say you know how it was done. You may think this makes you look smart, but it is actually very rude. People are at the show to have a good time, not to find out what tricks you know. Be a polite audience!

It's OK to tell your parents how the tricks work; they can help you practice

SECRETS: Never tell the audience how a trick is done. When they know how it's done then all the fun is gone. If they ask how you did it, smile and say, "It's magic".

REPEATING: Never repeat the same trick for the same audience. If they ask you to do it again, show them a different trick.

REACTION: Be sure to act surprised and amazed when you perform. This will help your audience respond the same way and make your magic more enjoyable and fun to watch.

PRACTICE: Practice each trick many times before you show it to anyone. Without enough practice, the trick could fail and you will give away the secret.

MIRRORS: Always think about how the trick will look to the audience. The best way is to practice in front of a mirror or video camera, so you can see what your friends will see. They will watch closely, so you must know how it looks to them. Sometimes you will see things that need to be corrected.

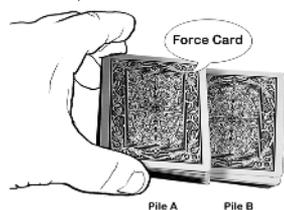
TRICKS: Start by learning one trick first. If it's difficult, put it aside and try another one. After you master one trick, start learning another trick. With time you will find the difficult tricks become easier because you are gaining experience. Have fun and be sure to add your own personality.

“FORCING” A CARD

The spectator picks the card YOU chose, but they think it's the card THEY chose.

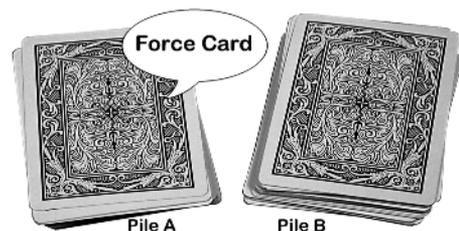
THE CUT FORCE

Before starting the trick, secretly remember the top card of the deck. This is the “force card” you will force your friend to choose.

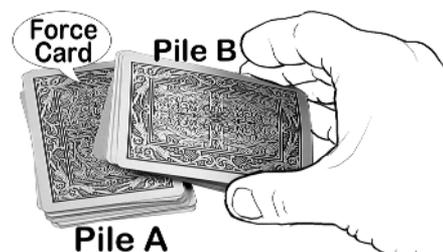


Have the spectator lift up half the deck, and place it on the table.

You now have two piles of cards, A & B. The card your friend will choose, the force card, is on the top of pile A.



Keep track of the force card. Tell your friend you will mark where the cut was. Pick up pile B, and place it sideways on top of pile A.

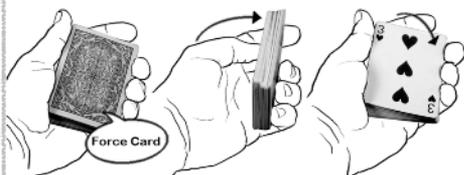


Look at your friend, then tell her to show her card to everybody. You lift pile B and point to the top card of pile A. She will think this is where she cut the deck of cards, so when the card is picked up, everybody will think it is the one she chose.

THE SCARF FORCE

Once again, secretly remember the top card of the deck. You will also need a scarf or cloth napkin that you cannot see through. Hold the deck in your hand, and drape the scarf over it.

Here comes the important move. Under cover of the scarf, turn the deck upside-down in your hand. The photos are shown without the scarf.



The spectator cannot see it, since the hanky is covering it up, so he will think it is normal.

Now have the spectator lift up the top half of the deck.

Before the scarf uncovers your hand, turn the bottom half of the deck right-side up.

When the spectator takes the top card off the deck in your hand, he will think it is the chosen card.



*Remember... you'll need a table for the **Cut Force**, but the **Scarf Force** can be done anywhere.*

THE CASE OF THE CARD IN THE CASE

For this routine you'll need a deck of cards, one duplicate card, a way to vanish the card, and the card case (the box that the cards come in when purchased).

Here's what happens: The spectator picks a card, remembers it, and shows it to everyone. (It's ok if you see it). The card disappears, and reappears inside the card case, which was in full view at all times. This is a very strong routine, which people will remember for a long time.

How does it work? Have the duplicate card on top of the deck, inside the case. When you pull the deck out of the box, leave the duplicate inside. Keep the opening of the case towards you, so nobody sees you leave the card inside.

Lay the card case on the table so everybody can see it (but keep the duplicate inside and hidden). Have the spectator choose a card, but make sure s/he gets the card which matches the one in the case. You'll need to force the card.

Here is where you vanish the card, but don't say you're going to vanish it. Just say you'll wrap it up for safe keeping.

Now say the magic words, wave the wand, jump up and down, or whatever. Show that the card is gone, then point to the card case. Tell one of the spectators to open it, and show the card inside.

Use the **Folding Paper Gimmick** described in this book to make the card vanish.

Forcing a Card is in this book.



Helpful Hints... Buying Tricks

Going into a magic shop to buy a new trick is fun, but make sure you are prepared BEFORE you go. Remember, the person behind the counter doesn't know what tricks you like or what type of shows you do, so you need to tell them.

How much experience does the trick require? Some tricks are very difficult even for magicians with 20 years experience, so you should wait before buying them.

How much does it cost? Many tricks are quite expensive and only do one thing. The best thing to buy, instead of a trick, is a book. In a magic book, you will find dozens, maybe hundreds of tricks. Sometimes you will find out how to make one of the tricks you saw in the store. This will save you some money.

Some tricks you will have to buy, because they are difficult to make yourself. Sponge balls, card vanish boxes, thumb-tips and linking rings are just a few examples.

THE UPSIDE-DOWN CARD LOCATION



When you turn around, hold the deck in your hand like before, and insert the chosen card into the deck. You've actually put the card into an upside-down deck, but the audience will think it's normal.

Ask a helper to choose any card from the deck. Show it around, then put it back in the deck. You try to find it, but can't. You spread the cards out, but one card is upside-down... it's the chosen card!

Here is how it works: Your helper picks any card she wants. If you want, the front of the card may be signed with a magic marker so they can't forget the card. You then tell her to show the card to everyone. To make sure you don't see it, turn your back to the audience. Keep the deck of cards in your hands. Now comes the secret move.

Keep your elbows against your sides so the audience can't see your arms move. Turn the deck upside-down, and then turn the top card upside down. You now have a deck that looks normal even though it's actually upside-down.



Announce you will find the card without looking, and hold the deck behind your back. Grab the top card (the one that's upside-down), show it to everyone, and ask if it was the chosen card. When they say no, look a little worried and say you'll try again.

Reach behind you and grab the next card, show it to everyone, and again they will say no. Now act like you really messed up the trick, and start spreading the cards apart like in the photo at the top of this page.

When you come to the upside down card, push it out onto the table, but keep your finger on it. Tell everybody that the card turned upside-down by magic.

Now ask your helper what the name of the card was, and when she says it turn the card over. Take a bow!

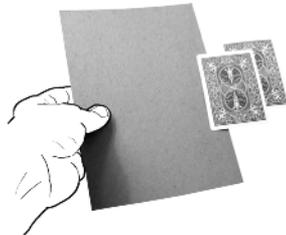


I'm getting dizzy!

CARDBOARD CARD PREDICTION

On the table is a piece of cardboard and a deck of cards. You explain to the audience that you will do this trick without touching the cards at any time.

Pick up the cardboard and have an audience helper pick up the deck of cards. Instruct them to place a card on the cardboard. You slide it off and begin making a pile of cards.



Have another card placed on the cardboard, then another and another. While the pile of cards

is forming, tell them they can stop at any time, they can pull a card from the middle of the deck, they can even cut or shuffle the cards if they want.

When they decide to stop, you drop the cardboard on top of the pile of cards. Move your hands away, and ask somebody to please turn over the piece of cardboard. Written on the other side is a prediction. Now have somebody turn over the top card of the pile, and they match!



How does this work?

The reason your audience helper can cut, shuffle and use any card in the deck is not in the deck at all.



The whole time you're holding the cardboard and placing the cards on the pile, the 2 of hearts is held underneath the cardboard, hidden from view. When your helper is

finished laying down the cards, you drop the cardboard (with hidden force card underneath) on top of the pile. This places the predicted card on top. That's it! Just make sure the card is positioned the same way as the pile of cards.

There are a few details to keep in mind when doing this trick. When sliding the cards onto the pile, make sure you don't tilt the cardboard... people may get a glimpse of the card underneath. Practice this in front of a mirror so you can be sure the card is not showing.

Emphasize many times that you are not touching the cards, this will make the trick more powerful.

Wait until there are a few cards on the pile before you mention they can stop any time. If you tell them at the beginning of the trick, and they stop after one card... you have a problem.

If the pile gets messy to the point where there may be confusion as to which is the top card, ask your helper to straighten it out a bit. Remember, you don't want to touch the cards.

This is a great trick... practice and have fun with it!

I KNEW YOU'D PICK THAT

On the table are five cards and a folded piece of paper with a prediction written on it.

The prediction is a secret; only you know what it is.

Thru a process of elimination, the cards are narrowed down to just one. When the prediction is opened up, it matches the chosen card. It seems that you can see into the future!

Here is the secret:



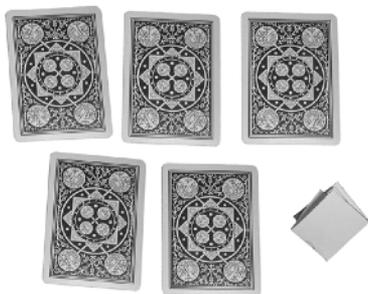
This is a useful technique for making the audience think they are choosing the card. In fact, it's the magician that makes the choice... which is why this technique is called "Magician's Choice".

Before the trick begins, you need to know which card you want the audience to pick. This is your "force card". Since they're face down, make sure you remember where it is on the table top.

Ask your audience helper to "point" to two cards. Don't say "pick" or they may pick up two cards which could spoil the trick.

Now you have two choices to make here, and this is where the secret of the trick comes in.

If your "force card" is one of the two pointed at, then place the other three cards into a pile on the side of the table.



Leave your force card and the other one where they are.

If neither of the two cards pointed at is the "force card", then put those two cards onto the pile, leaving three untouched.

In other words, the helper does have a free

choice of cards.... but you decide whether the cards stay or go.

There are now two or three cards left on the table. This time ask the helper to point to just one card.

Again, this card stays or goes depending on whether it's the force card. If it is the force card, move the remaining cards to the pile and leave the force card where it is.

If it's not the force card, move it to the pile and ask the helper to point to another card.

Eventually there will be one card left on the table. This is the force card. Turn it over so everybody can see.

Now have the helper unfold the prediction and show that they match!

Of course, this trick could be done with items other than cards. Three to five objects work best. Any more or less and you run the risk of the audience figuring it out.

FOLDING PAPER GIMMICK

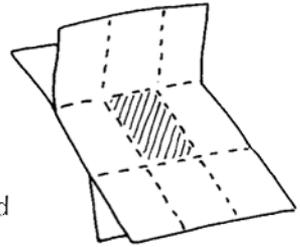
A torn card is folded into a piece of yellow paper. A newspaper is wrapped around that, and everybody says the magic words. When everything is unfolded, the card has magically been restored!



*This gimmick is used in **The Case of the Card in the Case** trick in this book.*

THE SECRET:

The yellow paper is actually 2 pieces glued back to back, each folded the same way.



Folded into the back side is a whole card, which matches the torn card. You'll need to use 2 decks. Make sure you have permission before tearing cards.

When unfolding the papers, be careful not to show the back of the yellow paper. Nobody should know it's double sided.

Have a helper tear the card. Now place the torn pieces in the center of the yellow paper. Carefully fold the yellow paper, while keeping it in the center of the newspaper.

Now comes the secret move. While folding the newspaper, simply turn over the yellow paper. The large size of the newspaper will help to cover this move. Practice this often so it will be done smoothly.

Unfold the papers and show the torn card is whole again!

These folded papers are a very useful tool for switching one flat item for another.

You could turn blank paper into a dollar bill, or 5 one dollar bills into 1 five dollar bill. You could use it to vanish a card, or make one appear.

A great bonus... it folds up small and can be carried in your pocket.

CANDY ON A ROPE

For this trick you will need a roll of Lifesavers™ (or any candy with a hole in the center), a handkerchief, and a length of string or thin rope.

Here is how the trick looks. The piece of candy is on the string like the picture shows. A handkerchief is draped over the string hiding the candy. Both ends of the string are held by other people. The magician reaches under the handkerchief and takes the candy off the string without breaking the candy or the string!

How? Before you start the trick, carefully break a piece of the candy. You may have to try a few to get a clean break.

Glue the two pieces back together with just a little bit of glue, and give it time to dry.

Make sure that this prepared candy is the first one in the roll, so it is the one you put on the string. When you reach under the handkerchief, have an extra piece of candy hidden in your hand. The best way to hide it is not to look at it. People tend to look where you look. Quietly break the candy on the string, and hide it in your hand.

Now bring out the unbroken piece, holding it at your fingertips. Let everyone look at the candy and the string. While they are looking at it, place both your hands in your pockets, dropping the broken pieces in also. It's best to put both your hands in your pockets, because if you put one hand in your pocket, it looks suspicious.



Helpful Hints... World of Entertainment

Most tricks performed today have been performed by other magicians in the past.

What makes one magic show different from another is how the tricks are presented to the audience along with the personality of the magician.

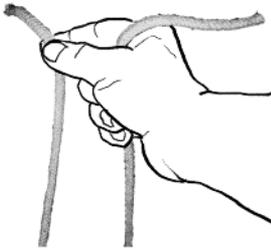
To be a good magician, you must ENTERTAIN your audience. People will watch a trick and wonder how it was done. But when people are entertained by magic, they don't worry about how the tricks work. They are too busy having a good time.

How do you entertain? Watch other performers, and not always other magicians. Watch singers, comedians, dancers, and see how they use their personality to set themselves apart from the others. The best advice: BE YOURSELF!

Some brands of round candy works better than others.

THE APPEARING KNOT ON THE ROPE TRICK

Hold a single piece of rope so your friends can see both ends.



Drop one end of the rope while still holding onto the other end. Point to the end hanging down, take a bow, then look at the rope.

Oops... Nothing has happened. Try it again, but still... nothing happens.

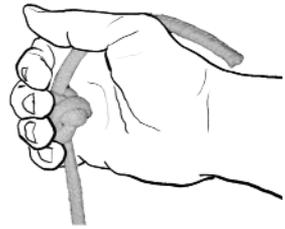
Then remember that your friends get to help by saying the magic word. When they do, drop the end of the rope revealing a large knot tied on it. Thank your friends for being such good magicians.

HERE'S THE SECRET:

Before you start the trick, when nobody is looking, tie a bundle of loose knots near one end of the rope. Leave an inch or two sticking out. Make sure the knots are big and loose. Big so the audience can see them; loose so it's easier to untie when you're done. This prepared rope can be kept out of sight in your pocket, backpack, lunch-box, book-bag, or anywhere else you can easily reach.



To start the trick, hide the knot in your fingers so it doesn't show.



Your hand should look relaxed. If you're having trouble hiding the knot, make it smaller so it fits in your fingers better.

The first two times you do the trick, drop the end held between your fingertip and thumb. Keep the knot hidden. Pretend you made a mistake. This is a good chance to practice your acting skills.

On the third try, ask the audience to say the magic words. When they do, you appear to do the same move as before. But you actually do it in reverse. Hold the end firmly between your fingertip and thumb, then open your other fingers to let the knot end fall down.

Point to the knot, and pause. This pause is important, because it tells the audience that something has just happened, and it gives them time to notice the knot has appeared.

This trick can be done with something tied to the rope instead of a knot (as long as it will fit into your hand). For example, you could have a ring or small toy appear.

This is a fun trick that can be done almost anytime. Carry it with you everywhere so you're always ready to amaze & entertain your friends!

CUT & RESTORED ROPE

You've probably seen this trick before... the magician cuts a piece of rope in two, waves his hand over the parts, and they become one rope again.

This is a classic of magic. There are hundreds of ways to do it. If you study magic long enough, you'll discover that every magician has a favorite method.

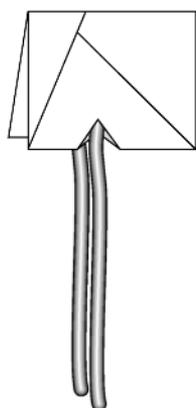
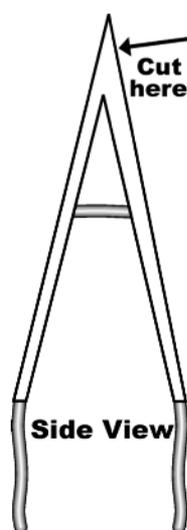
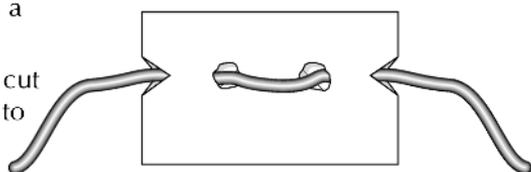
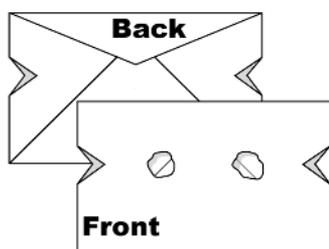
The envelope above has a notch cut on each end. This is for the rope to go through. These notches may be cut while the audience is watching. The holes on the front are cut before you start the trick, and should NEVER be seen by the audience. The holes are not cut all the way through the envelope, but just through one side.

Pull the rope through the envelope; but when threading the rope, slip it out and back through the hidden holes. Practice this so it's done smoothly without the audience seeing it.

Lick the envelope and seal it. For a joke, pretend the glue tastes bad & make a funny face.

Now fold the envelope in half and tighten the rope by pulling the ends. Don't tear the envelope yet.

Carefully cut along the fold. It will look like you also cut the rope. Put the ends of the envelope back together, wave the wand, say the magic words, wiggle your ears, or whatever, then yank the rope out (tearing the envelope) and show it's restored!



Get an adult to help with the cutting

THE RUBBER PENCIL

The rubber pencil is more of an optical illusion than a trick, but it still is fun to include in a magic show, especially if you are already using a pencil for some other trick.

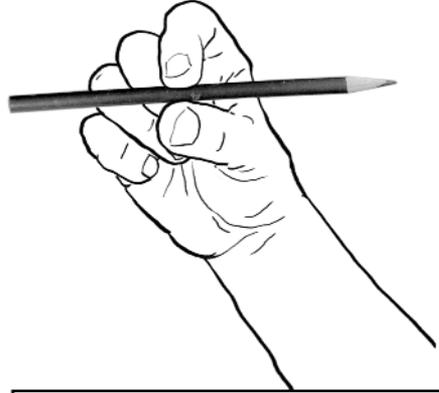
First show the pencil is normal by tapping it on the table, or letting somebody look at it. If you can borrow a pencil, even better.

Hold the middle or the end of the pencil between your first finger and thumb tips. Now slowly twist your finger and thumb tips back and forth so the ends of the pencil go up and down. The ends don't need to move very far or fast.

At the same time you are twisting the pencil between your finger and thumb, slowly move your hand up and down about two inches each way. The pencil will look like is bending, as though it were made of rubber. Watch yourself do this in front of a mirror, and you'll see how this looks very strange to an audience.

After showing the pencil looks like it is made from rubber, hand it to somebody so they can see it is actually a regular stiff pencil.

This could also be done with a pen, marker, small ruler, even your magic wand.



HELPFUL HINTS... PACKS SMALL, PLAYS BIG

There are many tricks and routines that can be done with small props carried around in your pocket.

That's one of the fun parts about learning magic... you're always ready to show your friends a quick routine that amazes and entertains.

When a magician says something "packs small and plays big", they mean it takes up very little room in their suitcase or pocket, yet it can be a really amazing and fun routine.

What does "play big" mean? There was a famous entertainer who did a great show with just a white glove on his left hand. That glove, with the addition of a couple of cardboard ears, became one of the most beloved rabbit puppets of all time. It's the performer that makes all the difference. In this case, Jay Marshall used his ventriloquist skills to bring "Lefty" to life.

A single piece of rope is a common item for magic routines. There are many wonderful routines that can be performed... cut & restored, knots appearing and disappearing, changing color, stretching, escapes. The magician Mac King does a great routine with just a piece of rope.

COLOR CHANGING PENCIL

After wrapping a pencil in a napkin, the audience says the magic words. When the pencil is unwrapped, it has changed color!

Spread the napkin flat on the table, corner pointing to you (pretend that it's home plate on a baseball diamond). Place the pencil in the middle so it's pointing towards 1st base & 3rd base. Point out that it's yellow (or whatever color yours is).

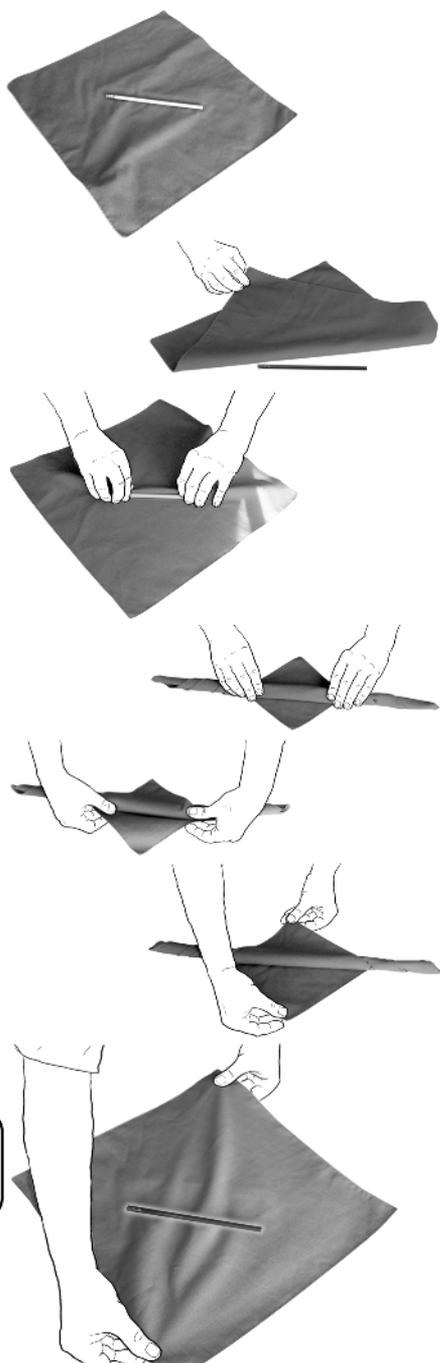
Unknown to the audience is an extra pencil hidden under the napkin. Same position, different color. Make sure nobody knows about it.

Wrinkle the napkin a little to hide the pencil underneath.

Grab both pencils and the napkin together, and start wrapping. It should look like you're wrapping just one pencil (the top one)

When you get to this point, with just the corners showing, turn the napkin over. Do this casually so it looks like you're still wrapping the napkin.

Wave your wand and ask the audience to say the magic words. While they're doing that, slowly pull the corners apart and show the pencil has changed color!



This works best on a tablecloth or a rug on the floor.

THE RISING PENCIL

Dropping a pencil into an empty plastic water bottle may seem a bit odd. Waving your hand over top and saying magic words might be even stranger. But when the pencil begins moving and floating by your command, you're magical!

How does it work?

The pencil has a length of thread tied to one end.

These photos show a thick string, but

that's only so you can see it on the page. When you're performing this trick for an audience, use a thin thread. Also make sure it matches the color of your shirt as closely as possible.

Experiment with various colors and you'll discover which is the hardest to see.

Drop the pencil in the bottle, with the threaded end at the bottom.

The other end of the thread is tied to a button on your shirt, or your belt buckle. It needs to be long enough that you can hold the bottle, with the pencil inside, about a foot in front of you before the thread gets pulled tight.

By moving the bottle away from your body slowly,

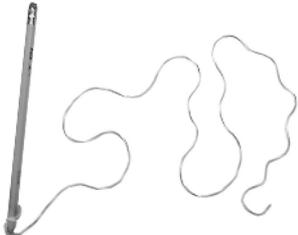
the pencil will be pulled up. Start by having the pencil move just a little, then a bit more, then rising slowly. Act surprised.

This is a very fun trick to do, but it must be done carefully. Moving the bottle away from you should be performed smoothly and slowly. Use your body positions, hand, and eyes so people look at the pencil.

Of course, this trick could be done with something other than a pencil. You could make a wand rise from the bottle, a skinny vase, or from your shirt pocket.

Combing two different types of illusion in this trick can turn it into a very interesting routine. At first, the pencil or wand is becoming animated. It moves around on it's own as if it's alive. You could use the movements to illustrate a short story or even use the pencil as a puppet who won't stop moving.

Later in the routine, the pencil or wand levitates (floats)... a whole new trick in the minds of the audience!



*Make the pencil float with **The Magnetic Floating Pencil** trick in this book.*

As with all tricks, practice this one often and in front of a mirror.

THE MAGNETIC FLOATING PENCIL

Holding a pencil in your fist, you explain that it has amazing properties. If you hold your arm really stiff and don't move, the pencil will become magnetic and stick to your hand.

Grab your wrist with the other hand to steady your arm and stare straight at the pencil. Slowly open one finger at a time until just your thumb is left holding the pencil. Pause for dramatic effect; then lift up your thumb to reveal the pencil sticking to your hand like a magnet!

The Secret: As you can see in the picture, your other hand is doing more than just keeping your arm steady. It's also holding the pencil.

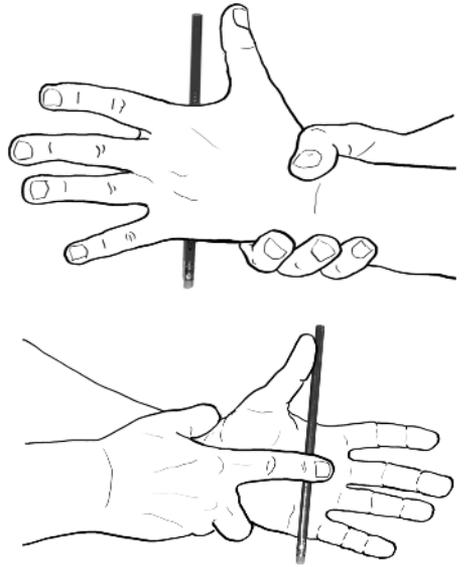
Of course, make sure the audience does not see this part of your hand. Position yourself so the side of your body is towards them.

When you grab your wrist, your first finger straightens out and holds the pencil in place.

This should be done without anybody noticing. When you're practicing this trick, your goal is to grab your wrist and hold the pencil in one movement, so there are no suspicious adjustments or wiggling.

The rest is acting and making it interesting to your audience. You can pretend like it's really hard to do, and you have to concentrate.

This same trick can be done with other things besides a pencil. If you have a magic wand, this is a great trick to include. You could also use a spoon, a stick, a straw, almost anything that will fit in your hand.



This is a fun and easy way to make a pencil float, and it can also be used for lots of other objects. However, it's not the only way. Making things float has been in the repertoire of magicians for hundreds of years. It's one of the most mystifying illusions.

But how? In the case of this trick, your finger provides the lift. But wouldn't it be more amazing if you could let go of your wrist and have the pencil float!

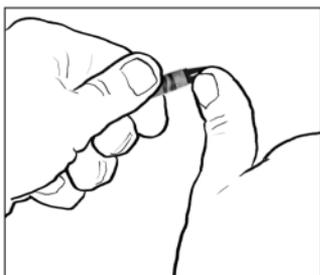
If you have an extra pencil and wear a wristwatch and long sleeves, you can make it happen. Slip the extra pencil under your wristband (when nobody is looking, of course) and hide it under your sleeve. When you are holding your wrist, secretly slide the hidden pencil out until it's holding the pencil in your hand. Make sure the other end is still securely under your watchband. Now do the trick as before with your hand holding your wrist while you slowly open the fingers to show the pencil floating. After a short pause, you can then let go of your wrist completely!

THE CRAYON TRICK

Who wouldn't love to see inside a closed box, especially around birthday time? This trick will make people wonder if you really can.

A spectator places any color of crayon into a box held behind your back. You can tell, without looking, what color is in the box.

Dump all the crayons to be used on the table. Now hold the empty box behind your back, and turn around. Instruct someone to place one crayon in the box. When they're done turn around to face them and pretend to concentrate, staring into their eyes.



Red, blue, and yellow are good colors to use. They're easier to recognize.

What you're actually doing is scraping a bit of crayon off with your thumbnail. Bring your hand in front of you, and point to the audience. When you do, glance at your thumbnail to see what color the crayon is.

Try not to move your eyes though, because people will notice that. Instead look at the audience, and move your thumbnail up towards your forehead. This will give you plenty of chance to see the crayon's color without everybody noticing your eye movement.

Announce in a loud clear voice what color he placed in the box; then place the closed box on the table and let everyone open it and look inside.

Helpful Hints... Costumes

The kind of clothing you wear when you perform is important. If you do a funny act, then you might want to get some old clothes that are too big for you. A hat is also a good thing to have. A jacket is handy, especially if it has a lot of big pockets that you can carry tricks inside.

Of course, you don't have to wear goofy looking clothes to do a comedy act. Some magicians do very funny shows wearing a nice suit and tie.

For a serious act, you'll want to look your best, with a nice suit, well-combed hair, and a tie.

Costume clothes can be found at many secondhand stores. They are low-priced, and there's plenty to choose from. Also keep an eye out for hats, ties, even suitcases.

PICK A NUMBER

Who knew math could be magical?!

Have a spectator choose any number between 1 and 63. Tell them to write it down and put the paper in their pocket. Claim that you can tell what the number is by listening to the tone of their voice as they answer yes or no to the following questions.

Close your eyes (or put on a blindfold if you want to get extra fancy) and show them the first of these cards. Ask if their number is on the card. When they reply, pretend you are really concentrating. Show the next card, ask again. Do this for all 8 cards. When done, pause and then announce in a loud clear voice what number they picked... it's correct!

Here's the secret:

Notice the first number of each card, in the upper left corner. $1 \cdot 2 \cdot 4 \cdot 8 \cdot 16 \cdot 32$. These are special numbers, each double the one before it. Ask your math or computer science teacher, they can explain more about them.

All you have to do is add the special number for each card that the spectator replies "yes". For instance, let's say the chosen number is "45". The spectator will answer "yes" for cards 1, 4, 8 and 32. Add these numbers together and you get..... 45. As you are showing the cards, you'll need to know what the special number is on each one.

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 17 19 21 23 25 27 29 31 33 35 37 39 41 43 45 47 49 51 53 55 57 59 61 63 | 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 |
| 2 3 6 7 10 11 14 15 18 19 22 23 26 27 30 31 34 35 38 39 42 43 46 47 50 51 54 55 58 59 62 63 | 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 |
| 4 5 6 7 12 13 14 15 20 21 22 23 28 29 30 31 36 37 38 39 44 45 46 47 52 53 54 55 60 61 62 63 | 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 |

Copy this page on heavy paper, carefully cut out the cards. Ask an adult to help.

READING WITH YOUR FINGERS

What if you could read with your fingers? This trick shows that you can. Three people write their names on a piece of paper, a girl and two boys. The paper is then torn in three pieces, and the pieces are dropped into a box or hat. With a blindfold on, the magician is able to pull out the one girl's name.

Of course, this could be done with two girl names and one boy name, or two people wearing shoes with laces and one with velcro, or two people who take the bus to school and one who walks.

Here is how it works.

The paper is folded into three parts, and the names are written on the paper like the picture. Now tear the paper at the folds and drop the pieces in the hat. Cover your eyes with the handkerchief and reach into the hat.

How do you tell which one is the girl's name? Feel the edges of the paper carefully. The name in the middle will be the only one with two torn edges. The top and bottom names have only one torn edge. Pretend you're thinking hard, and people will think you can read with your fingers.



MYSTICAL MOBIUS

With the use of a long strip of calculator paper, you demonstrate a very strange version of reality.



Figure 1

another strip of paper, cut down the middle... but now the loops are linked! (Figure 2)

The third time, you cut down the middle and end up with one large loop!

How does this happen?

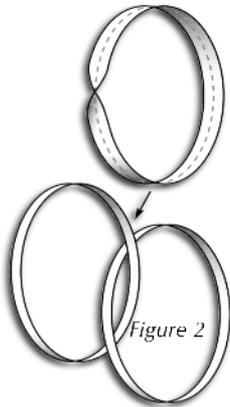


Figure 2

As seen in figures 1, 2 and 3, the number of twists in the loop makes all the difference.

The first loop has no twists when you tape the ends together. It helps the effect of the trick a lot to do this regular loop first. The audience can see and confirm that cutting down the middle results in

2 loops.

However, the second loop is twisted before taping the ends, but the audience must not be aware of it.

This is easy to accomplish, because the length of the paper strip hides any twists. When preparing for this trick, have the strips of paper laid on the table with the twists in place ahead of time. This makes it easier to proceed.

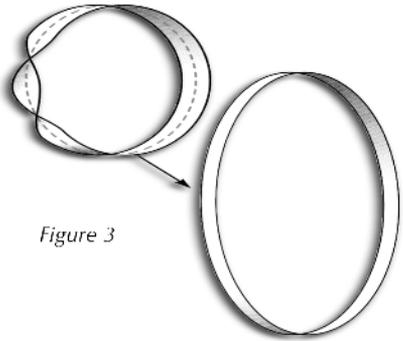


Figure 3

If you want to make the twists while taping the ends, you'll need to practice the move until it is done very smoothly. Telling a story of some sort will help keep attention away from the paper while you are making the twists.

The third strip of paper has two twists, as seen in figure 3. Again, cut down the middle.

It helps to have a line drawn end to end on the paper strips before starting. This can be done easily by laying the strip of paper on a table, putting a book at each end to hold it in place, then carefully drawing the line with a pencil and a yardstick.

Use safety scissors, and have an adult help. Or you could just tear the paper. Some papers will tear in a straight line, as well as certain cloths. You could make the loops from old newspapers, they are usually able to tear straight.

THINK ABOUT THIS...



Imagine that little ant is walking along the mobius strip of paper.

He will walk on both sides of the paper and never cross over the edge of it!

THE GRAVITATIONAL COIN TRANSPOSITION TRICK

With two hands and four coins, you can make one coin travel thru the space between your fists and appear in the other hand.. is it teleportation?

This is what the audience sees: You show four coins with your two hands like the drawing above. Two of the coins go inside your fists.

The other two are placed on top of your knuckles by somebody from the audience.

After a bit of explanation about the effects of gravity on the coins, you pause and have the audience say the magic words. Upon opening your hands, one coin has traveled across!

Here is the secret:

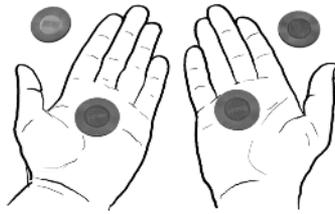
During your "explanation" about gravity, you appear to drop the two coins from your knuckles to the table. Ask the audience helper to place them back on your fists, then continue with the trick.

The helper has just done the trick for you!

When the audience sees two coins fall to the table, they assume it is the coins that were on your knuckles. That's the secret to this trick.

When turning your fists over, the left fingers grab the coin on top of the left hand and hides it in the fist. This is pretty easy.

The right fist, however, does something totally different. It drops the coin from the top of the knuckles AND the coin from inside the fist. It



must be done without visibly opening the hand.

By turning your fist sideways, you can hide the opening that allows the coin to fall out.

This is not an easy trick to do. It takes a LOT of

practice, especially in front of a mirror. You must be able to do the moves without even thinking about them. Practicing one hand at a time is easier.

It must seem like the trick hasn't started yet when coins fall.

For instance, you could say.... "This trick that I'm about to do works by gravity. You know, when things fall". Now drop the coins onto the table top. "Like that. Would you please put those back on my knuckles..."

Once those coins are back on top of your knuckles, the audience thinks the trick is just starting. In fact, it's basically over.

Hold your fists wide apart, and move slowly. Any fast motion would look suspicious.

Keeping the fists apart, move them slowly up and down. Grab the coins into your fists; then bring them back down and hold still for a moment. This pause is very important.

Now slowly open your fists to show three in the left, and one in the right.

Again, this trick takes a lot of practice. But it's worth it. This is a great effect and if done well, will fool everybody!

Of course, you're not limited to coins. You could also use game chips (like in the pictures), pebbles, small wrapped candy, or any four objects that look alike and can fit in your hand.

MAILING A COIN BY MAGIC

Deciding to mail a valuable coin to your friend, you send it via magic express.

This is what the audience sees: You show everybody your valuable gold coin and wrap it up in a piece of paper. After saying the magic words (with help from the audience), you tear the paper into small pieces, and the coin is gone!

Here is the secret:

It's all in the way you fold the paper, plus a bit of sneaky misdirection at the end of the trick.

Start by placing the coin on the paper (figure 1).

Fold the bottom edge up (figure 2). The coin should not be visible.

Make sure it's not peeking over the top.

Crease the folds as you're making them and be as precise as possible. In this trick, neatness counts. (figures 3 & 4)

Both edges should be folded in the same direction, towards the audience.

This next fold is the one that makes this trick possible. You want it to look as though you were folding the top flap of an envelope (figure 5).

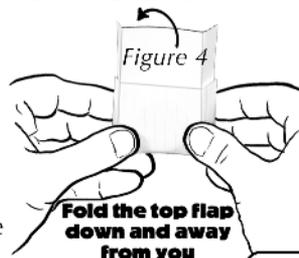
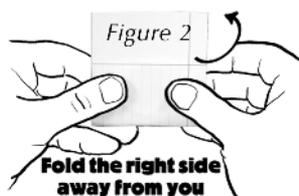
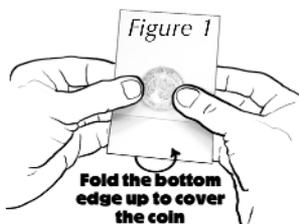
Notice how that fold creates a "pocket" where the coin is

hiding. Don't let the audience see this. They should think that the coin is sealed inside. In fact, the pocket remains open so the coin will fall out without the audience realizing it.

To get the coin to fall out, simply turn the envelope over in your hand. Gravity will make the coin fall into your palm hidden behind your fingers.

With that same hand, hide the coin while reaching for your magic wand. Grab your magic wand with the same hand that is holding the coin. This gives you a reason for keeping your hand closed. But be careful not to let the coin "clink" against the wand!

Pause, look at the paper, then slowly tear it into little pieces showing that the coin is gone!



Heavier coins will slide easier.



PULLING A COIN THRU A NAPKIN



Figure 1

This is what the audience sees:

Show your audience a coin in your hand. You cover this coin with a cloth napkin or hanky, then show everybody that it's still there. Perhaps they think it's going to disappear.

Twisting the bottom of the napkin, you ask somebody to hold it tight. As if by magic, you slowly pull the coin right thru the cloth... and show there is no hole in the napkin!

Here is the secret:

You don't actually pull the coin thru the napkin. By wrapping the coin in a special way, you make it look like it's in the middle of the cloth. The coin is actually outside the napkin, near the edge. Here's how.

Hold the coin like figure 1. This is important, so make sure you're hand matches the photo. Your hand will stay in this position for almost the whole trick.

Now cover the coin with the napkin, making sure the coin is in the middle. Again, this is important. If you want, you could have an audience helper place the cloth over it.

Now come the secret move.

While straightening out the napkin, you pinch some of it between your thumb and the coin.

Figure 2 is from the magician's point of view, it's what you see, NOT what the audience sees.

Reach over the top of your hand, grab the bottom of the cloth closest to the audience, and lift it up to show that the coin is still there (figure 3).



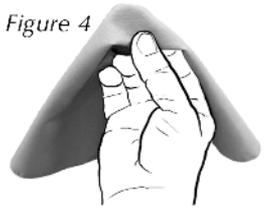
Figure 2



Figure 3

Drape the napkin over your wrist and straighten it out. Make sure there are no wrinkles.

Figure 4



Cover the coin again but lift **both** layers off of your wrist and place them over the coin. Figure 4.

Notice that the coin is now on the outside of the cloth and is only hidden by the fold in the middle.

Straighten everything so it looks nice and neat.



Figure 5

Now hold the coin with one hand and grab the bottom of the napkin (figure 5). Ask somebody to hold the napkin tightly, making sure they don't see the coin peeking out from under the cloth.

You hold the coin in your fingertips and slowly pull it out from under the cloth (figure 6). It will appear like it's being pulled right thru the napkin by magic!

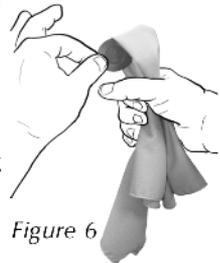


Figure 6

THE UPSIDE DOWN PRESIDENT

Borrow a dollar bill from somebody in the audience. Or maybe a twenty... who knows? You might get one!

Hold it up so the audience can see the picture of the president on the front, and point out that he is standing upright. Fold the bill a few times keeping it held steady and in full view. When you unfold it, the president is now upside down!

Here's how it's done.

This one takes a lot of practice, because the sequence of folds is important.

These photos are from your point of view: what you will see when performing.

Pre-folding the bill makes it much easier to perform. Draw a dot on the back of the bill. This helps you know which part to grab at a crucial move.

Step 1:

While doing the folding, keep the bill as motionless as possible. Act like it's "glued" to the air.

Step 2:

At this point, it helps if you hold the bill from the top, where the letter "N" is folded in half. Use just your fingertips so it doesn't look like you're hiding something. Fold the left side first, then the right.

Step 3:

Before unfolding the bill, do the "magic move". It's always fun to get your audience involved by having them say the magic word, wiggle their fingers, maybe even do a silly dance. Use your imagination!

This part of the trick is the most important. Make sure you are unfolding the bill just like it shows in the photos.

Step 4:

The final move is where you reveal that the president's picture is now upside down.

If you finish and the president's picture is facing you, then try it again until you see the word "ONE" upside down.



Fold the top down (away from you) so it looks like this:



Step 1



Fold the ends (away from you) so it looks like this:



Step 2



Hold the corner with the dot and unfold (toward you) so it looks like this:



Hold this corner and unfold (toward you) so it looks like this:



Step 3



Reach over and grab the front of the bill (the part facing the audience) and pull up so it looks like this:



Step 4

RUBBERBANDS ARE JUMPING

While your audience is watching you stretch a rubber-band around your first two fingers, you talk about the famous Harry Houdini. No ropes could hold him; he always escaped.

Even when held tightly (squeeze the rubber-band) he was able to jump right out. When you open your hand, the rubber-band has jumped to your other two fingers in the blink of an eye!

Here's how it works:

This is a very popular trick and quite easy to do. Just pay attention to the photos and make sure your fingers are in the same position.

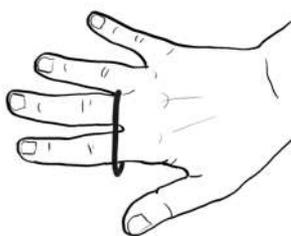
At the beginning you are stretching the rubber-band from one side of your hand to the other. This gets your audience used to seeing you stretch it, and it helps to focus their attention on your hands.

Before you close your fingers into a loose fist, stretch the rubber-band down along your palm to your wrist (figure 4). Make sure the audience does not see this part, so keep the back of your hand towards them. Also, keep the rubber-band against your skin. Don't lift it up away from your palm.

Now curl all your fingers so they go inside the loop of the rubber-band. Keep your thumb out and make sure all your fingers are inside (figure 5).

Notice that the fingers are straight, not bent over like a fist. This is important.

Slide the rubber-band up your fingers a bit so it rests on your knuckles. Again, hide this from the audience.



All these moves should be practiced so they can be done in one smooth motion.

Once the rubber-band is in position on your knuckles, you are ready to do the magic.

Make sure the back of your hand is facing the audience and they can see the rubber-band easily (figure 2).

Practicing in front of a mirror (which is always a good idea) will help a lot.

Pointing to the rubber-band helps to focus the audience's attention.

You want them to know that something is about to happen, and they better be watching. As usual, pause before you do the next move.

To make the rubber-band jump across, open your fingers. It's just that easy! Make sure your fingers stay straight (figure 3). This happens very fast, which is why you want to make sure the audience is looking closely.

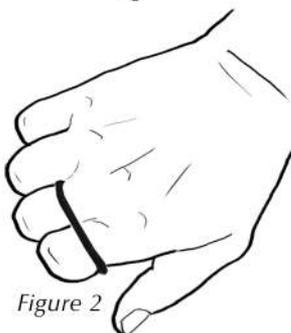


Figure 2



Figure 3

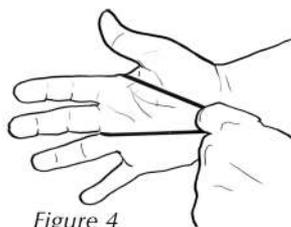


Figure 4

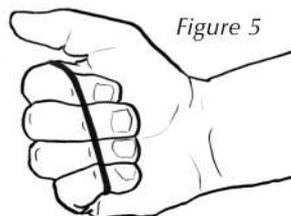


Figure 5

Can you figure out how to make two different color bands switch places at once?

VANISHING A COIN BAREHANDED

Sleight of hand magic - using pure skill to bring about a magical effect. With cards, coins, ropes and other small items, the magician can perform apparent magic.

It takes a lot of practice, and your fingers may be doing things they've never done before. When you see a skilled sleight of hand artist perform, you may think it looks easy. It's not. But even though it's hard, it's worth it. Practice is the key... lots of practice!

This is what the audience sees:

A coin (or any small object) is shown to the audience. Placing it into the other hand and making a magical gesture, the hand is opened to reveal that the coin has vanished into thin air!

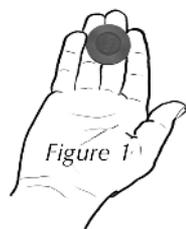
Here is the secret:

You don't actually put the coin into the other hand.

That may sound simple, but there is a lot more to it. The coin has to look like it went into the second hand. There has to be no doubt in the audience's minds.

Here's how...

Hold the coin like figure 1. This is a natural way to hold a coin.



Next step, actually place it into the other hand and close your fingers around it (Figures 2 & 3).

Simple. Do this over and over you're not even thinking about it.



Now that you're tired of this, let's do it a bit differently this time.



When you are turning your hand over to place the coin into your second hand, hold the coin with your thumb so it stays

in your first hand. Keep your thumb on the coin for the rest of the trick with your fingers flat.



Figure 4

Now pull your first hand back, still holding the coin, and close the fingers of the second hand at the same time. This should look just like it did when you were really putting it in your hand (figure 4).

Notice how the fingers are closed in figure 5... it looks like you're about to punch somebody in the nose (which is not nice).

Make sure you close your fingers loosely like in figure 4.



Figure 5

To really make the audience believe the coin is in the second hand, look at that hand and move it up a little. Keep your focus on that hand. What about the first hand that is actually holding the coin? Let it drop down to your side as though it was not even there. Don't think about it, and NEVER look at it.

Say the magic words, pause, then open your second hand.... the coin has vanished!

This sleight of hand technique is very useful for magicians. I highly recommend you learn this well.

THERE'S ALWAYS MORE TO LEARN!

Magic is very popular and FUN. Everyone knows the name of David Copperfield. He made the Statue of Liberty disappear, as well as a jet airplane. David Blaine is well known for floating.

Some magicians tour with large stage shows. These are a real treat to see, and you may get to meet them backstage after the show.

Try to watch magicians whenever you can. Search the TV schedule and mark the shows that have them.

There are many books about magic. Many can be found at your school or local library. Most magic books can be found around 793 in the shelves. Study them, and learn as much as you can about the fascinating world of magic. Also try juggling, puppetry, balloon animals, or even clowning.

**STUDY HARD, KEEP
PRACTICING, AND
HAVE FUN!**



Society of American Magicians:
www.MagicSAM.com



Society of Young Magicians:
www.MagicSYM.com



**International Brotherhood
of Magicians:**
www.Magician.org

BOOKS

- ***Magic: The Complete Course***
by Joshua Jay.
- ***Complete Course in Magic***
by Mark Wilson.
- ***Practical Encyclopedia of Magic***
by Nicholas Einhorn.

ABOUT JIM & SANDY...



Jim Sisti has been performing magic as a full-time professional for almost 30 years. His unique brand of comedy magic and mentalism has taken him from local night-spots and comedy clubs to the off-Broadway stage and he has garnered a list of clients that include numerous Fortune 500 companies, actor Richard Dreyfuss, and many others. A prolific writer and inventor, his two best-selling books on magic, in addition to a number of magic tricks he has developed and marketed, are in use by magicians all over the world.

Sandy Sisti is a multi-talented performer who, in addition to magic, has an extensive and eclectic range of skills in storytelling, balloon sculpting, origami, and palmistry. Besides her considerable experience in the performing arts, Sandy is the owner of her own company, Seams Like Magic, that custom-manufactures theatrical props for variety performers, including magicians, jugglers, clowns and others. Her handmade items are in use by performers the world over.

Together, this husband and wife team have been performing at Quassy Amusement and Waterpark for 17 seasons, combining the mystery and surprise of magic, a generous helping of audience participation, and a large measure of uproarious and wholesome comedy. It's an entertaining, family-friendly show that park guests look forward to every year.