

AMAZING MAGIC!



By
Ivan Strat



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Introduction

Magic performed correctly can be breathtaking. It can make people both laugh and cry, as well as feeling completely amazed. Learning the art of magic gives you the ability to create the feeling of wonder, and the best part is that you can do it practically anywhere.

The book you're holding is just the beginning. It's your stepping stone into a new exciting world where you'll be able to make objects float in mid-air and appear or disappear. You'll even be able to read people's minds.

Some helpful tips before we begin:

- Practice, practice, practice. The more you practice, the more amazing your magic will seem! I'd suggest that you perform your tricks in front of a mirror at first - that way you'll be able to see exactly what your audience is seeing.
- Never perform the same trick for the same person twice! If you perform the trick to them more than once, they may be able to work out the secret.
- Never tell your audience how the tricks are done - that way you can keep them guessing, and they will be even more amazed with your show!
- Plan ahead of time. Naturally you'll want to give your audience the best show possible, so by planning ahead and rehearsing, you'll be able to do just that and impress them even more.

Your journey starts now...

The Floating Pencil - Version 1

This is a fantastic trick that you'll be able to do in no time at all! All you'll need is a pencil or something similar, like a straw, a magic wand, a fork and so on - pretty much anything else with a similar shape. So, go and grab one of those and let's get started.

The Trick:

A pencil clings to your hand by magic.

What You Need:

A pencil (or anything with a similar shape).

The Secret:

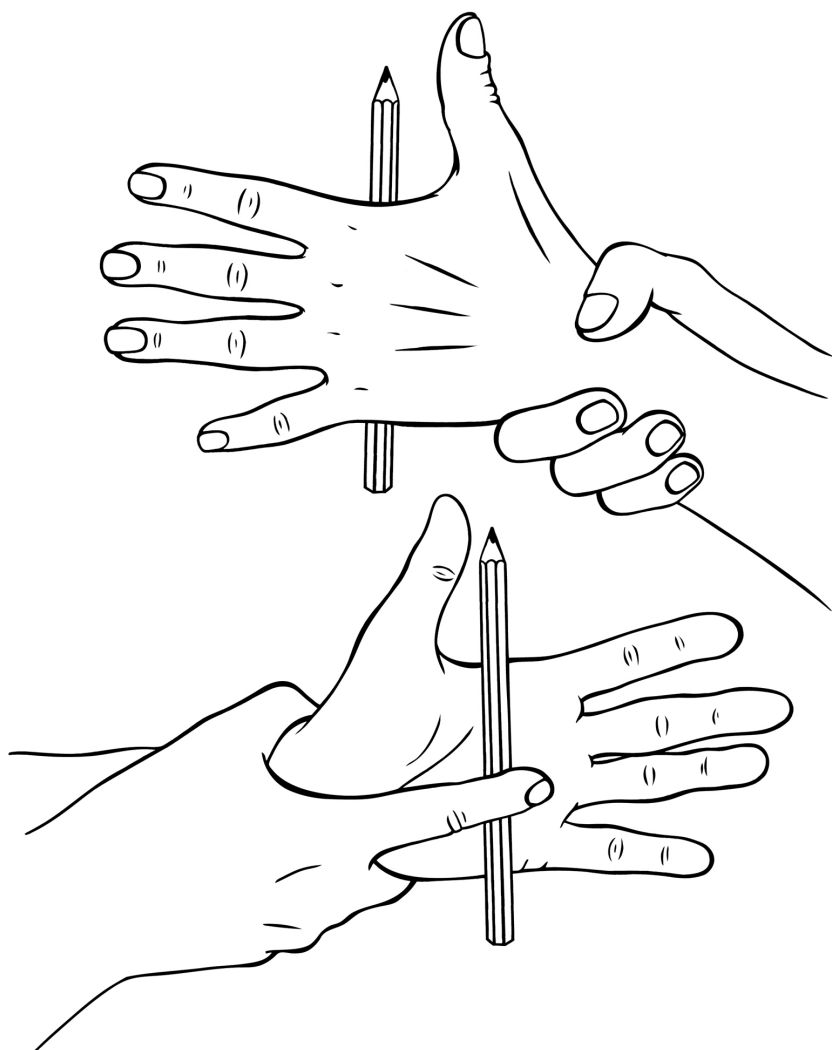
So, here's how it's done - the pencil is actually held in place by your right index finger.

To do the trick, simply place the pencil into your left hand. Next, press the index finger of your right hand onto the pencil, and wrap your other fingers around your left wrist. From the front, this will seem as though the pencil is sticking onto your hand by magic.

You'll be able to wiggle your fingers, and move your hand up and down, but the pencil will stay completely still.

As long as you keep the back of your left hand towards the audience at all times, they'll never know how it's done...

This trick is perfect for performing while you're having dinner, at school, or even just hanging out with friends.



The Floating Pencil - Version 2

Here's another idea for The Floating Pencil that will take the trick one stage further. After making a pencil stick to your left hand, you reveal the trick and show the audience that it was actually held in place by your right hand. Then you let go with your right hand and the pencil stays in place by magic! Here's how it's done:

What You Need:

A pencil (or anything with a similar shape)

A pen

A watch or bracelet

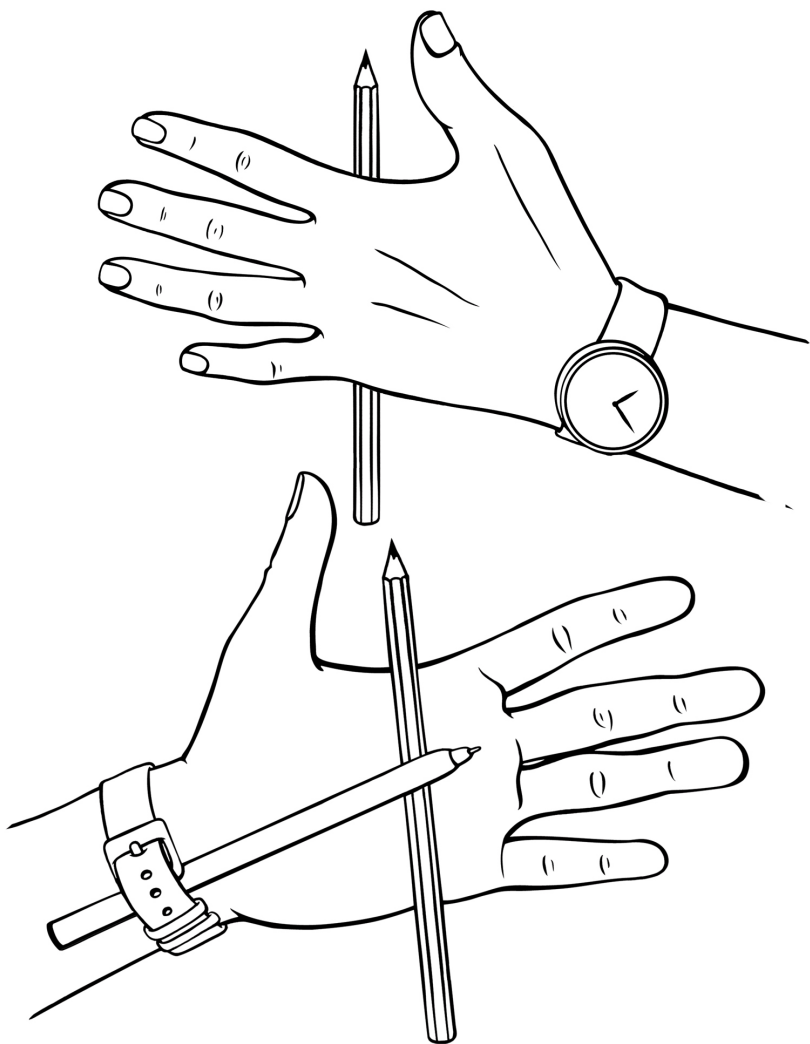
The Secret:

In this trick it'll seem that you are giving the secret away to the audience, only to make them even more amazed when **you** let go of your left hand.

To set the trick up, place the pen under your watch strap or bracelet. Then place the pencil across your left palm and under the watch, so that it is held in place without you needing to hold it. Once this is set you're ready to perform the trick.

Show the audience The Floating Pencil that you learnt on the previous page, but after showing them that the pencil has 'stuck', turn your hand around revealing that you are actually holding it in place. Here, you are secretly coving the pen with your index finger.

Next, turn your hand back around and let go with your right hand; it will now seem as if the pencil is floating in midair!



The Jumping Band

The jumping band is a really easy trick to do that will fool your family and friends. The best thing is that you use a simple everyday object: a rubber band.

The Trick:

Wrap a rubber band around your first and second fingers, and with a magical gesture cause it to jump onto your third and fourth fingers!

What You Need:

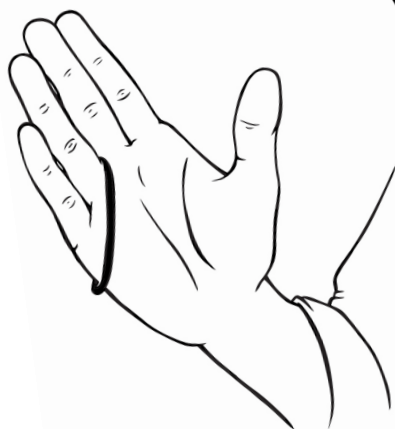
A rubber band

The Secret:

Take hold of a rubber band and place it over the first and second fingers of your hand, making sure the back of your hand is facing towards the audience.

Now, pull the rubber band away from your hand and close your hand, placing all of your fingers inside the band. The audience won't know what you've done; it will simply look as if you have placed the band over your first and second fingers.

All that's left for you to do is quickly open your hand and it will seem as if the rubber band has jumped onto your third and fourth fingers by magic!



The Grey Elephant

This brilliant trick will work without you having to do a thing! It's a perfect trick to perform on older friends or adults.

The Trick:

Make it seem as if you are reading someone's mind in an impossible way!

The Secret:

This great trick works automatically. Simply learn the script below and ask your friends to follow the instructions you give them - as long as they follow the instructions correctly, it'll work every time.

“Think of any number between 1 and 10.

When you have a number in mind, add 1 to that number.

Now add 3 to that number.

Now subtract the first number that you thought of.

**Great! Now, think about the letter in the alphabet that matches the number you are thinking about.
So, if you are thinking of number 1 the letter would be A.
Number 2 would be B.
Number 3 would be C, and so on.”**

Give them a moment to do this.

“Have you got a letter in mind? Fantastic!

Now, think of any country that starts with the letter you are thinking of.

Great. Spell the name of that country in your head.

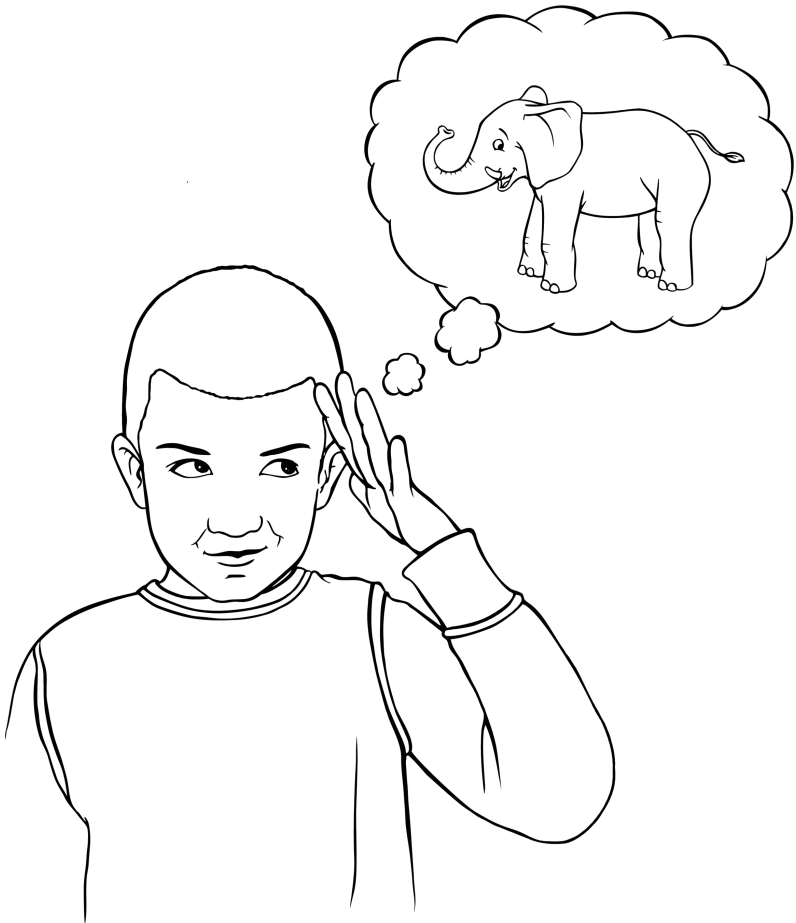
Now think about the second letter in that country's name.

Now, think of an animal whose name begins with that letter.

Now, think of that animal's color.

Pause here, and make it seem as if you are really concentrating
and trying to read their mind.

**That's strange... this can't be right... there are no GREY
ELEPHANTS IN DENMARK!"**



The Vanishing Pen

This is a fun trick that you'll be able to do absolutely anywhere!

The Trick:

Tell your audience that you will make a coin disappear right in front of their eyes simply by giving it three taps with a pen. After the third tap the coin doesn't seem to disappear, but the whole pen has vanished into thin air!

What You Need:

A coin

A pen

The Secret:

Whilst the audience is looking at the coin, you actually place the pen behind your ear.

To set up, simply place a coin into your left palm and hold the pen with your right fingertips. Make sure you are standing so that the left side of your body is facing the audience. You are now ready to start the trick.

Begin by telling the audience that you are going to make a coin disappear. It's important that they know this, so that they don't follow the pen with their eyes.

Explain that the coin will vanish after three taps. As you say this, tap the coin with the pen and **slowly** bring the pen up over your right shoulder, just next to your right ear. Do this two more times, but on the final time place the pen over your ear and bring down your right hand as if you are going to tap the coin again. It'll seem as if the pen has completely disappeared!

Don't forget - by moving the pen very slowly you won't draw any attention to it and you'll make the trick even more magical!



Ninja Banana

Here's a really cool trick using a banana! Just make sure no one slips on the banana peel afterwards...

The Trick:

Chop a banana into small pieces using your magical skills.

What You Need:

A banana

A toothpick

The Secret:

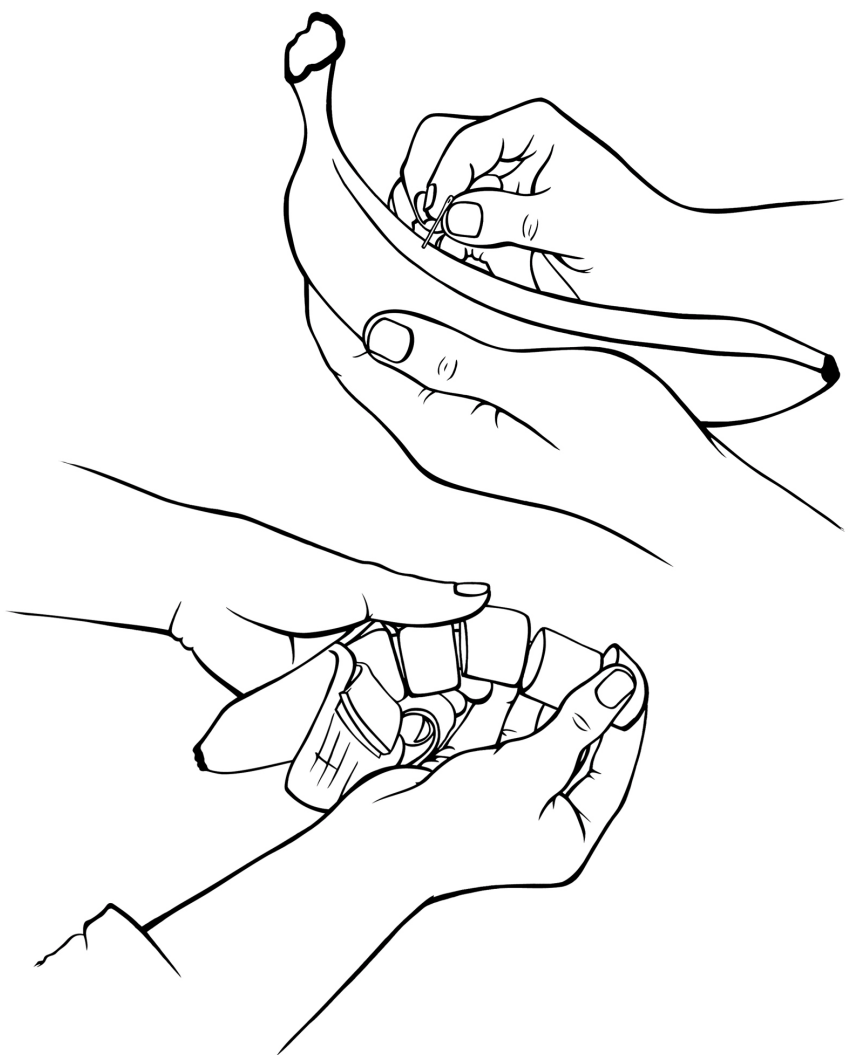
This one will take a couple of minutes to set up, but it'll get a great reaction from your friends so will be well worth the effort.

First, get a toothpick and pierce the banana about an inch from the top (if you are a child, you may want to get an adult to help you with this). Push the toothpick carefully through the outer skin and into the banana. You want it to reach the other side, but be careful it doesn't go through.

Now move the toothpick from side to side, slicing the banana from the inside! Pretty sneaky.

Once that part of the banana has been cut inside, take the toothpick out and pierce it back into the banana about an inch below where you placed the previous hole. Now repeat the last step, slicing the banana from the inside with the toothpick. Keep doing this all the way down the banana.

That's it! Once you're ready to start the trick, show the banana to your friends and tell them you are going to slice it by magic. Now mime karate chopping the banana in different places and watch their amazement as they peel the banana open and find it sliced into small pieces! Brilliant!



The Vanishing Coin

This is a very sneaky way to make a coin disappear right in front of your friends eyes!

The Trick:

In this trick you'll seem to make a coin completely vanish into midair!

What You Need:

A coin

A jacket or coat

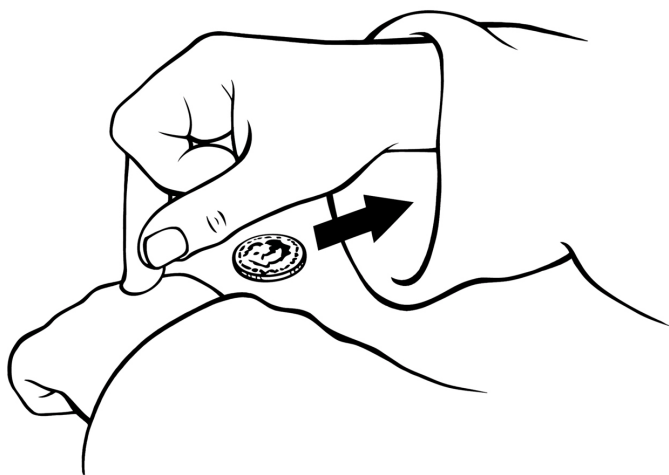
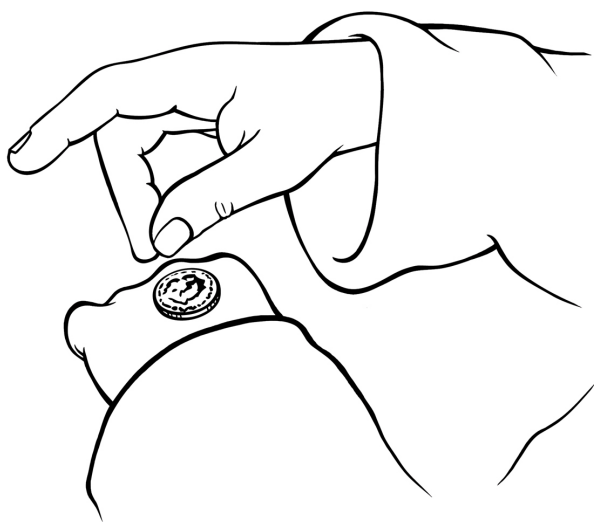
The Secret:

The secret to the trick is that the coin actually *flies* right up your sleeve without anybody seeing. Here's how to set it up:

Close your left hand into a fist and place a coin on top of it. Now, bring your right hand over the coin and click your fingers - as your right finger quickly moves away from your thumb it'll hit the edge of the coin, shooting it straight into your right sleeve.

You can now show that both hands are completely empty, and that the coin has completely disappeared.

This trick will take a bit of practice at first, but it is well worth the effort! The best part about it is that as long as you're wearing a jacket or coat and you have a coin, you will always be ready to perform the fantastic vanishing coin trick.



The Floating Card

The Trick:

The Floating Card will make it seem as if you make a playing card float in midair! You wave your hands around the card to prove that there are no strings or wires, but the card stays completely still. It's a great trick that's really easy to do!

What You'll Need:

A playing card

A magic wand (or something with a similar shape)

Double-sided tape or Blu-Tack

The Secret:

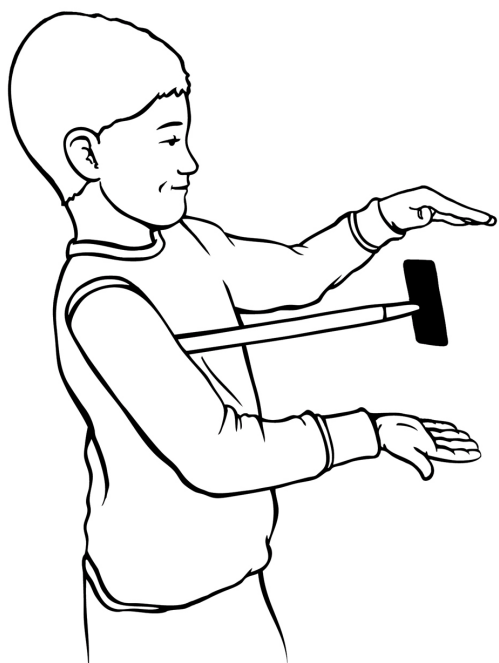
To set this trick up simply take the double-sided tape and stick it to the round end of the magic wand.

Next, take the playing card (I'd recommend the Ace of Spades, although any card will work fine) and stick it onto the tape.

Now all that's left for you to do is place the wand under your armpit so that the card is facing the audience - from the front, it'll make it seem as if the card is floating in midair!

It might take a bit of practice at first to make sure the audience won't be able to see the wand, so I'd suggest performing the trick in front of a mirror until you get used to what angles work best.

It's as easy as that! Go and grab the playing card, the wand and the double-sided tape, and you'll be performing this trick in no time at all!



Water to Ice

This brilliant trick is perfect for when friends come over to your house, or if you're out at a restaurant...

The Trick:

In this trick you pour water into a cup. Just seconds later you pour real blocks of ice back out again.

What You Need:

A cup

A sponge

A couple of ice cubes

A glass of water

The Secret:

The secret to this fantastic trick is that there is actually a sponge hidden at the bottom of the cup that absorbs all of the water! It's really easy once you know the secret.

So, to set the trick up, take a bath sponge and cut it into a circle so that it will fit snugly into the bottom of a cup. You may want to get an adult to help you do this if you are a child.

Next, place some ice cubes on top of the sponge and you're ready to begin.

Show the cup to the audience, making sure that they cannot see inside it. Now pick up your glass of water and pour a small amount into the cup. Blow into the cup and say that your icy breath will magically turn the water into ice.

All that's left for you to do is turn the cup upside down, allowing the ice cubes to fall onto the table, and watch the expression on your friends' faces! Superb!



The Transforming Card

This quick trick will make you seem like a master card magician, and it's really easy to do!

The Trick:

A playing card changes in the blink of an eye.

What You Need:

Three different playing cards

A glue stick

The Secret:

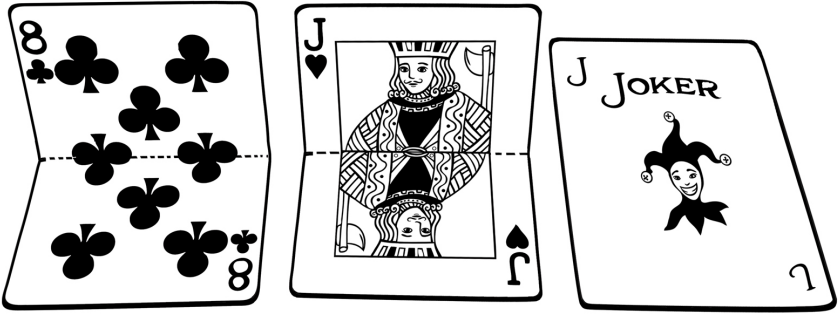
Here's how to set the trick up. Take two different cards out of the pack, let's say the 8 of Clubs and the Jack of Hearts, and fold them in half back and forth, making a really sharp crease.

Next, take your glue stick and glue one half of both of these cards together. Care has to be taken here to ensure the cards line up perfectly. You will now have a playing card with a flap in the middle. This can be shown as either the 8 of Clubs or the Jack of Hearts.

Now glue the face of your third card and stick it onto the back on your folded card - this will make your gimmicked card more stable.

To perform the trick, simply show the card to your audience, displaying the 8 of Clubs. Wave your hand over the card, but as you do so flip the card flap over to make it change into the Jack of Hearts. This will make it seem as if you have made one card change into another by magic!

Make it extra convincing by taking your special card out of a matching deck of ordinary cards!



The Ring Elevator

This is the perfect trick to perform after 'The Jumping Band' that you learnt earlier.

The Trick:

A borrowed finger ring seems to float all the way up a rubber band.

What You Need:

A rubber band broken in half

A finger ring (you can borrow this from a member of the audience)

The Secret:

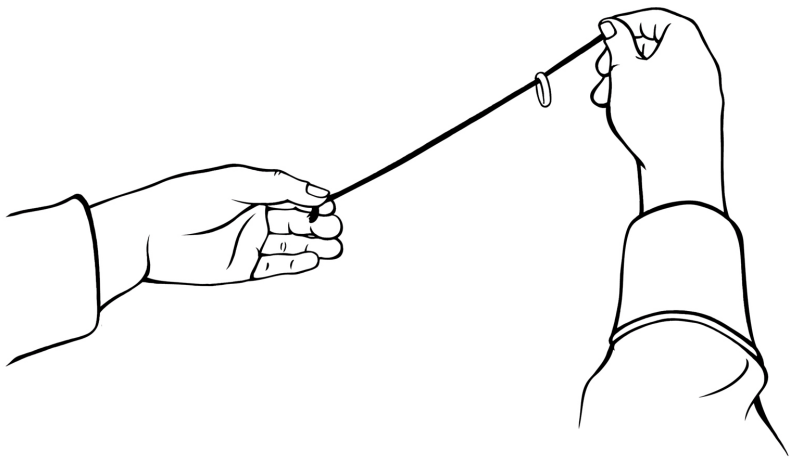
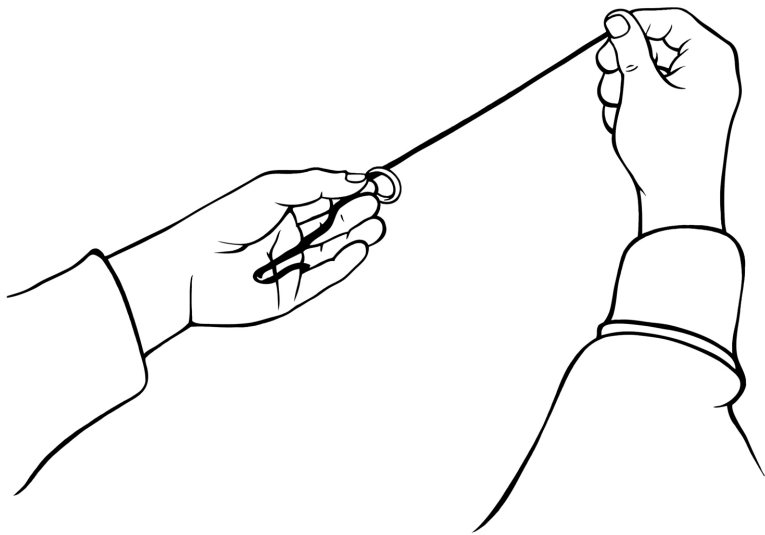
Pick up the piece of rubber band from the table with your left hand, but secretly keep a good length of the band hidden in your hand, keeping a shorter amount hanging from your fingertips.

Now, place the ring onto the band and stretch it upwards at an angle with your right hand, so that the audience doesn't know you have any of the band hidden in your left hand.

Now to make the ring rise, keep your right hand still but very slowly release the band with your left hand, allowing it to slide from your fingertips. This will make it seem as if the ring is rising, when it's actually staying still but the elastic band is slowly moving.

Once you are nearing the end of the band in your left hand, simply take the ring off the band and hand it back to your audience member.

Another amazing trick that you can do!



The Rolling Pencil

This will be great to use after 'The Floating Pencil trick!'

The Trick:

A pencil seems to move and roll across the table all by itself.

What You Need:

A round pencil or magic wand

The Secret:

Place a pencil or magic wand on the table in front of you, and tell your audience that you will make the pencil move just by concentrating on it.

Now rub your hands together and place one hand above the pencil as if you're really focusing on it. This will draw your audiences' attention away from you and onto the pencil. At this point you secretly blow towards the pencil which will make it roll forward.

Practice doing this at home because you want to try and keep your face looking exactly the same when you blow - but don't worry, everyone will be looking at the pencil at this point and they'll never suspect a thing.



‘Balducci’ Levitation

This incredible magic trick is perfect for amazing family and friends when you’re out and about...

The Trick:

You will seem to float off the ground!

The Secret:

It will probably take some time to get the angles right with this trick, but once you’ve learnt them you will always be ready to perform this mind-blowing trick.

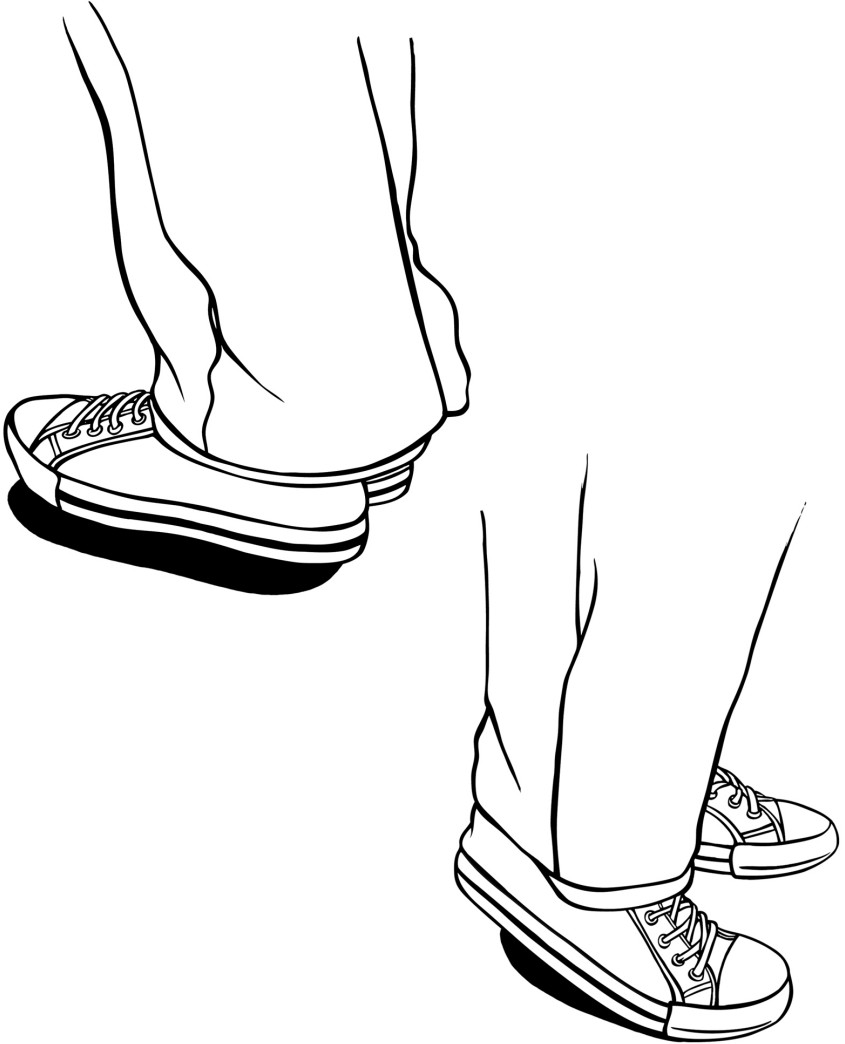
First, stand about 3 ‘big steps’ in front of your audience and turn your back to them. Now turn your body slightly so that when your audience looks at your feet they will only be able to see your left foot and heel, and the back of your right heel.

Practice getting this body angle right by showing the trick to a friend and asking how much of your feet they can see.

Once you’re sure that the audience cannot see the upper part of your right foot, slowly stand on your right toes pushing yourself up a few inches. Keep your heels together as you do this and it will seem as if you are floating in midair.

Stay in this position for a couple of seconds and then slowly bring both feet back to the floor.

This trick may take quite a bit of practice when you start learning it, but it is well worth all the effort it will take and will blow people away!



Credits:

Ed Balducci was the first magician known to publish a description of this trick on July 1974 in *The Pallbearer's Review*, (*Volume 9, Number 9, pp 755*). He named it the "Impromptu Levitation" but ended his description with, "Originator unknown." It has since been called the "Balducci Levitation."

Conclusion

So that's it for this time. I really hope you have enjoyed this magic book and that you will continue to learn!

Don't forget:

- Practice your tricks often.
- Never perform the same trick for the same person twice.
- Never tell your audience how the tricks are done.
- Plan ahead of time.

With these tips in mind, along with the amazing magic that you've learnt in this book, you'll be astounding your friends and family in no time at all.

Keep doing magic,
Ivan Strat

Ivan Strat is an entertainer from Long Island, New York who specializes in social and family gatherings.

His love for the art of magic illusions and sleight of hand have allowed him to wow guests at parties and special events while creating lasting memories. To have Ivan make the next event you are planning magical, visit:

AmazingIvan.com



AMAZING
IVAN

The image features the text "AMAZING IVAN" in a bold, stylized, outlined font. The word "AMAZING" is on the top line and "IVAN" is on the bottom line. The text is flanked by two light gray hands with black outlines, positioned as if they are holding or presenting the text. Above the text, there are several black stars of varying sizes, with a large, prominent four-pointed star in the center. The entire graphic is set against a plain white background.

AMAZING MAGIC!

This brilliant book contains over 30 pages of incredible magic tricks that you will be able to perform!

Each trick is designed to be easy to do, using objects that you'll find around the house.

Whether it's to amaze your friends at school or be the life of the party, then this book is for you!

Ivan Strat is a magician and illusionist from Long Island, NY. He is also a Guinness World Record Breaker and party entertainer. He loves sharing his magic with audiences small and large. He would like to thank you for practicing the tricks in this book and then showing your friends.

