

THE MANIPULATIVE PAGE

Edited and compiled by DOUG FERGUSON

Welcome readers to the first installment of a long (I hope) series of similar articles. This page will deal with all forms of manipulative magic and contain mostly contributed material.

Over the past few months I have begun to realize that the magic world has become too mechanical. I've noticed that my talents (and probably yours) are limited mostly to presentation and showmanship. Most of my tricks are the typical easy-to-do-no-skill-required-operated-entirely-by-mechanics type. (WHEW!) Not that presentation and showmanship do not mean talent (these traits separate the men from the boys-----now if we just had something to separate the boys from the girls!). But nowadays magicians seem to think that to be a success one must have this showmanship and a lot of money to buy apparatus----period! They're wrong. All magicians should devote some time to tricks that aren't self-contained and EZ-to-do, in other words----MANIPULATIVE MAGIC. You know---card flourishes, coin and card palming, cups and balls routines, billiard balls, and all other multiplying "-----" types, sleight-of-hand silk tricks, and anything else to do with sleight of hand.

SO HERE GOES----WISH ME LUCK! (I'll need it!)

This month's trick is from John Butorac of Akron, Ohio. I suggest you go get three balls and a shell--you'll need them.

Start out by having two balls in your left pocket and a shell with ball in right one. Stand with left side facing the audience. Work balls on out-stretched right hand.

Take the shell and ball out of right pocket as one ball. While holding ball between thumb and forefinger, roll ball out of shell. (This appears as two balls -- as if you didn't know.)

Now for a sleight that's harder to put in words than to do. Place your free hand so that it hides the ball and half of the shell. Now grab the ball, quite inconspicuously, with your ring finger of the left hand, trapping it against the upper part of the palm (left). Now lower left hand ever so slightly but enough to place ball back behind shell while at the same time grasp at the area where the ball just left with the bottom part of the thumb and forefinger. Remember--while you do this process of moving the ball from forefinger and middle finger back to shell the right hand does not move; it stays frozen. The left hand does everything! This move, which I shall call "THE MOVE" leaves the impression that the ball is cupped in the closed left hand, but you know better! This move may seem difficult at first but with practice it becomes a very convincing move (NOTE: The first time I saw John do this I wanted to learn the move. It looked so simple, but was difficult. But when I learned it, which was easy because he was with me, I have discovered that it fools the audience completely!) Now take your cupped hand and move it away, out in front of you, and open it slowly for a dramatic effect. Now point at left pocket and remove a ball. Place it between middle and ring finger. You now have two balls in your right hand with a space between them. Produce third ball from shell and then put it in the shell again by means of THE MOVE. Open cupped hand slowly to show that it has vanished. Then produce a ball, presumed to be the vanished one, and place it between the ring finger and little finger of your right hand. Now roll fourth ball out of shell and drop the four balls, don't throw, into your hat. Don't worry about shell, gravity will pull the balls into the hat fast enough so no one will get a glimpse of the shell. This dropping, not throwing, is fast enough even if you wish to drop the balls one at a time. In either case--be sure not to miss the hat when dropping shell -- it doesn't bounce as well as the balls would if they accidentally missed the hat! Well, now bow to the welcomed applause. And remember---PRACTICE HARD!

Thank you, John, for sharing your ball routine with the other readers. I purposely omitted the

typical sub-heading "EFFECT" so the readers would have to read the whole thing before they knew what the trick was. Sneaky, but I bet it worked!

Say, if any of you have a pet manipulative effect, feel free to send it to me for this page. Remember this is your page, any articles you write will be credited to you, not me -- I just edit, compile, and occasionally write in information or funny(?) comment. Also remember, if YOU don't contribute, I shall --- and nothing could be worse than that!

I hope you all have a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. This greeting wastes space in my article but it's cheaper than sending you all a Christmas card. Well, thanks again to John Butorac and till next TOP HAT --- Good-bye! Send all contributions to:

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MISCELLANEOUS

By John Sherwood

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO ALL BOYS AND GIRLS (OH YES, OGLETHORPE TOO!) IN THE ICM:

This column completes more than a year of my writing for TOP HAT (They said it couldn't be done!). I wish myself many more years of doing so.

REVIEW DEPT.

Just recently, The Professional Touch, by Monk Watson was reprinted. By all means, this is a book to buy and read (and read again, for that matter). It's got tricks, routines, patter, ideas, and just plain good reading. \$2.50 from Abbott's.

As you know in the October FLASH PAPER I had an article entitled "Find the Members." If you want to know just whose names were hidden in that block of 270 square letters, then here's the list:

Steve Kelley (who's he?)	Dan Gardner	Dale Salwak
Terry Holmes	Tom Mullica	Russ Walsh
Alan Borgh	Fred Mattoon	Jimmy Lott
Doc Llee Roy	Jim Schmidt	Jay Marshall
Larry Dunbar	Tom Hastings	Skeets Moran
Jim Brower	Ken Leach	Bill Boley
Steve Fernandes	Neil Foster	

Now here's your rating: If you found 20, you did a fine job (of cheating maybe); 15-19, you're an above average name-finder; 10-14, you're an average name-finder; 5-9, you could do better than that!; 1-4, stick to tic-tac-toe; 0, no comment!

A word of cheer to our departing editor and good friend, Steve Kelley: College doesn't guarantee you a job, but it sure gives you four years to worry about it! Good luck, Steve.

Next time: A new card trick entitled "The Card Shark Plus One." -- A Sherwood Original*
*An undetected imitation.

See Ya. J.C. Sherwood, 120 West Hanover, Marshall, Michigan 49068