

FIFTY TRICKS WITH A THUMB TIP

A MANUAL OF THUMB TIP MAGIC

By

MILBOURNE CHRISTOPHER

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

HEN FETSCH

ILLUSTRATED BY "YOSHI"



Fourth Printing

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INTRODUCTION

By HEN FETSCH

In this book Milbourne Christopher tells you how to do almost everything but pull a rabbit out of a Thumb Tip. The genial Mr. Christopher is one of the most prolific writers on magic of this generation. Practical hocus pocus from his pen has appeared in **Hugard's Magic Monthly**, **Conjurors Magazine**, **The Sphinx**, **Tops** and many other periodicals both here and abroad

This is his fifth book of magic. All the others (including one in collaboration with a certain fellow whose initials are H. F.) have been best sellers in conjuring circles and this volume is destined to join the rest.

If Milbourne Christopher writes straight to the point, it is because of his background. He has presented his magic in 28 countries and delighted such celebrities as the Maharajah of Indore, J. Edgar Hoover and H. L. Mencken. He has been featured on coast to coast radio programs and frequently televised.

So take out your Thumb Tip, and get to work. If you don't add a batch of new feats to your repertoire, I'll eat my—Thumb Tip.

THUMB TIP MAGIC

The Thumb Tip is, as you probably know, the most popular secret device ever devised for conjuring purposes. According to George Johnson, who was long the editor of the **Magic Wand**, Professor Herwinn, of Bristol, England, used a Thumb Tip in the middle 1880s. One of his early models may be seen in the museum of the Magic Circle in London.

Thumb Tips came into wide use at the turn of the century when magicians discovered that with their aid, they could duplicate, or at least offer a reasonable facsimile of, Ching Ling Foo's famous torn and restored paper strip mystery.

Since then, the hollow, flesh-colored accessories have been utilized for almost every phase of conjuring; to produce, vanish and change articles; as an aid to mentalists; to create effects contrary to the laws of nature.

They are most frequently employed today in causing lighted cigarettes to vanish from the centers of handkerchiefs.

Unless specifically instructed otherwise, keep the Thumb Tip out of the audience's view as much as possible. A well painted Tip will be unnoticed if your thumb is pointed directly toward the spectators, but don't make a point of showing, it unless it is necessary for the trick.

MILBOURNE CHRISTOPHER



BURNING A HANDKERCHIEF

I frequently use this routine in the middle of a program. The moves to acquire and get rid of the Thumb Tip are the most natural I've come across in many years of experimenting.

A white handkerchief is in my coat's breast pocket. Between the handkerchief and the back of the pocket is a Thumb Tip, mouth upwards with a small piece of white cloth inside.

When I reach for my handkerchief with my right hand, my right thumb slips into the Tip. I remove the handkerchief and open it out between my two hands, taking care to keep my right thumb (with the Thumb Tip) concealed behind the cloth.

I release the end of the handkerchief that my right hand holds and reach down and take hold of the center of the cloth (that is facing audience) between my right thumb and index finger. I drop the end my left hand holds.

My left hand comes over and closes around the cloth and the two fingers of my right hand which holds it. It seems as if I pull up the center from my left fist with my right fingers, then release it. Actually my left hand closes firmly around both the handkerchief and the Tip, which until that moment has remained on my right thumb.

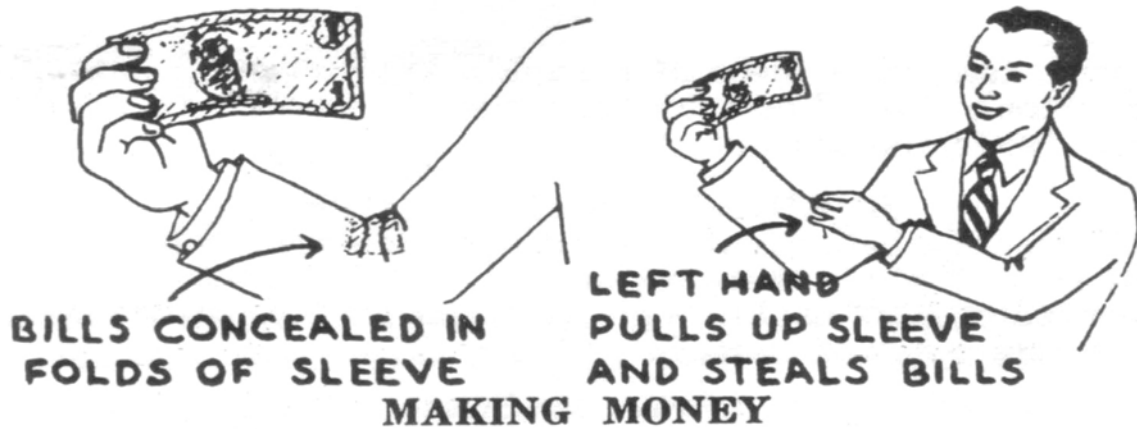
I slide my right thumb out of the Tip and up. This brings the bit of cloth inside the Tip into view. As this is at the top of my left hand and the handkerchief flows from the bottom, it seems that this is the center of the handkerchief.

My right hand takes a cigarette lighter or match from my right coat pocket and sets fire to the portion of cloth above my left fist. As it burns, I drop the lighter back in my pocket.

When the flame nears my left hand, I reach over with my right hand and with first finger and thumb pretend to push the cloth back in my fist. My forefinger stays at the top, but my thumb shoves the charred cloth back in the Tip and then steals the Tip away.

I make a few rubbing motions with my left fingers against the cloth, then take the closest corner of the handkerchief with my right hand. Fingers are toward the audience, and the thumb (and Thumb Tip) is hidden under the cloth.

With right hand, I pull the handkerchief free from my left hand and give it a shake. I open it out between my hands and show both sides (keeping the Thumb Tip out of view). Then I gather up the cloth and replace it in my pocket. As I put it in, I drop the Thumb Tip with it. This leaves my hands free for the next feat.



The performer shows his hands empty, then produces a crisp, new dollar at his finger tips. This changes to two, three and finally half a dozen bills.

Previous to the performance, a new bank note is pleated in eight folds, then bent twice into a smaller package and inserted in a Thumb Tip. This the performer wears on his right thumb.

Five other dollars are folded into a tight wad and placed in a fold of the right sleeve so that they may be held in place by a bend of the right arm, at the elbow.

When ready to perform, show both hands with finger tips pointing toward the audience. Wiggle your fingers slightly, then bring your hands together. When the finger tips of the left hand overlap those of the right (back of the hands toward the front) push the Tip on your right thumb into the palm of your left hand. Hold it in place by contracting the left palm.

Withdraw your right thumb and bring the concealed bill out with it. Open this between your hands taking care that no one sees the palmed Thumb Tip. Take the dollar in your right hand. With the left hand pull up your right sleeve by gripping it just at the point the wad of banknotes is hidden.

Get the concealed bills in your left hand. Keeping this hand closed to mask the bills, bring it to the right hand and take the dollar it has been holding. Pull up your left sleeve with your right hand.

Once more bring both hands together. Open the packet of dollars between them. Bring one bill after another into view until your hands are filled with money.

At the finish of the trick, put the batch of bills in your left pocket, dropping the Thumb Tip along with them.

RIBBONS FROM NOWHERE

If you use colored ribbons instead of dollar bills a pretty variation is possible.

Produce a red ribbon from the Tip, then get a bundle of yellow, blue and green ribbons from the fold of your sleeve.

Start if you like by pretending to pluck a red thread from space. Develop it into a ribbon. Additional "threads" change to a handful of gay streamers.

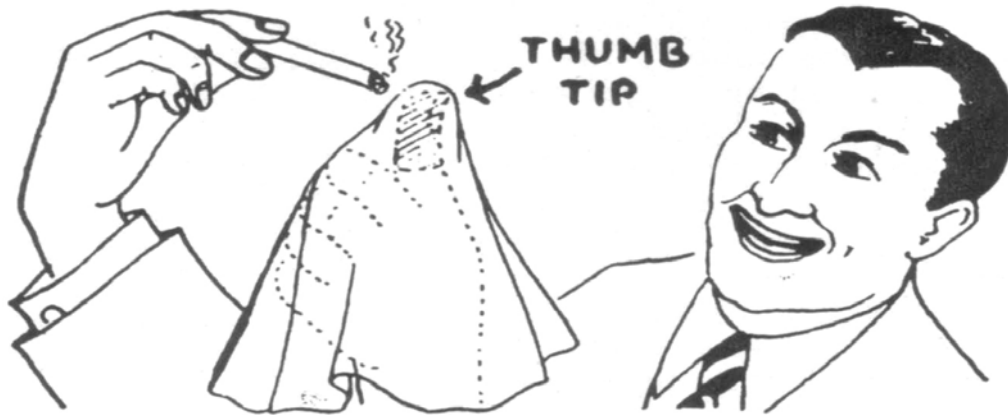
BURNING A NAPKIN

If you are in a restaurant or bar where paper napkins

are used, tear off a piece of a napkin secretly and put it in your Thumb Tip. You may then burn and restore a friend's napkin "extemporaneously."

BURNING A TABLECLOTH

Harlan Tarbell sometimes gathers up a section of a tablecloth, sets it afire, then restores it. As with the burning handkerchief and napkin, this is accomplished with the aid of an extra piece of cloth in a Thumb Tip.



FIRE-PROOF THUMB

Drape a handkerchief over your left thumb. Take a lighted cigarette and press its fiery end against your covered thumb. Grimace, but continue the pressure.

Some spectators will worry for fear that you are burning your thumb. At least one person will also be concerned about the fate of the handkerchief.

Remove the cloth. Your thumb is in perfect condition and the handkerchief does not have a hole in the center!

Secret:

The Thumb Tip is hidden by the closed fingers of the left hand at the start of this stunt. As you cover your thumb bend it into your fist, get the Tip on it, then bring it back to an upright position.

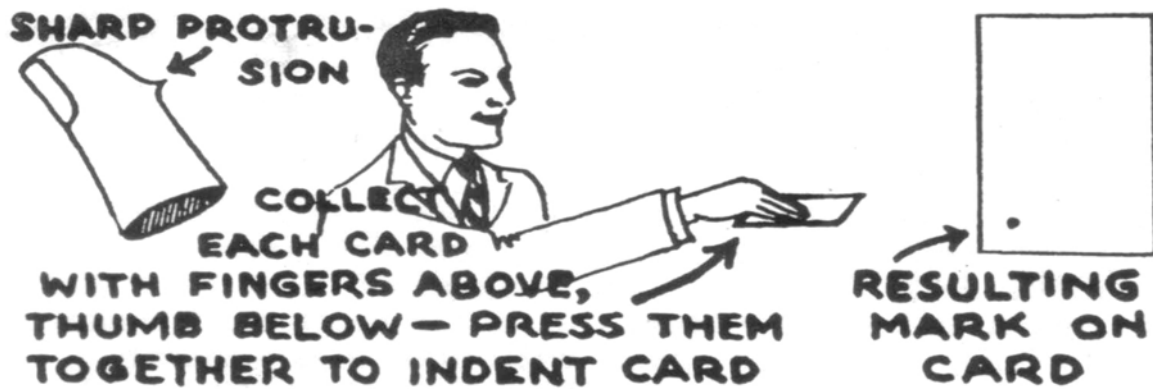
When the lighted cigarette is pressed against the cloth, the heat will be carried through it to the metal Thumb Tip. Neither your thumb nor the cloth is in danger.

In the process of removing the handkerchief, reverse the action used to get the Thumb Tip from your fist. An ash mark will be on the handkerchief at the finish—so you'd best use your own.

CONJURING UP CANDY

Another delightful Fetsch creation is this close-up candy making demonstration. At the dinner table, he drops some salt, sugar and a bit of silver paper into his left fist. He adds an "invisible" cocoa bean, warms his hand with a match then shows the results of his cooking—a piece of chocolate wrapped in silver paper, which he passes to an appreciative onlooker.

Silver-wrapped candy and Thumb Tip are in the left fist. The ingredients go into the Thumb Tip which is stolen out on the right thumb as described before and disposed of when you reach for the match.



LIVING OR DEAD

Six blank pasteboard or index cards are passed out to as many spectators. Three of the spectators are instructed to write the names of living people on their cards, the others are told to write "dead" names. The cards are collected and shuffled, yet the performer can tell immediately which category each card fits into.

You must prepare your Thumb Tip slightly for this test. Put a thin nail inside and hit it a sharp whack with a hammer. The sharp protrusion which results is the key to the mystery. See illustration.

When you collect the cards have the Thumb Tip on your right thumb. Take each card with your thumb underneath and fingers on top. Mark the "dead" names cards by gently squeezing your fingers and thumb together. This will cause the sharp point of the Thumb Tip to slightly dent the cards.

You can now, by touch alone, immediately tell one set of cards from the other. After the cards are collected allow a spectator to shuffle them, then while holding them face down call off either "living" or "dead." Following each pronouncement, turn over the card and read the name for verification.

CARDS CONTROLLED

After three playing cards have been freely selected from a deck, gather them up face down, marking each as described in "Living or Dead" effect.

You, or a blindfolded assistant, may now locate the chosen cards after any amount of shuffling.

VANISHING A DIME

Even well posted magicians have been deceived with this feat. They think a far more difficult sleight is used.

Have the Thumb Tip in your closed left fist. Show a dime in your right hand. Hold it between index finger and thumb and put it carefully in your left fist, dropping it silently into hidden Tip. Once it is out of sight, slip your left thumb in, get the Tip and remove it.

Blow on your left fist, then open it. The coin has vanished!

INDESTRUCTIBLE MATCH

This is a fine close-up feat. A wooden match is broken in three pieces and put in the performer's closed fist. He waves a cigarette over his hand, then opens it. The match is back in one piece. He uses it to light his cigarette.

Secret:

Have a wooden match and a Thumb Tip in your left coat pocket, another wooden match and a cigarette in your right.

Hold the Thumb Tip and the wooden match inside your left hand, just previous to doing the trick. The match is held alongside the Tip.

Openly remove the match from your right pocket and snap it in three sections. Raise your left hand, which is closed into a fist. Tuck the three sections of the broken match inside. Steal out the Tip, and the match sections it contains, when you push in the last piece with your right thumb.

Reach into your right pocket for the cigarette and leave the Tip behind as you withdraw the cigarette.

Wave the cigarette over your closed left hand. Hocus pocus, the match is restored! Strike it and casually light the cigarette.



One of the simplest and most ingenious methods ever thought of to cause a "spirit hand" to rap out messages on a board was contrived by Vantor.

Wizard Vantor balanced a board with a wooden hand on it on one of his hands.

Whenever he desired, he made uncanny raps sound without tilting the board or seeming to control it in any way.

The illustration will make the mystery clear. A rear view is given. When the board is balanced as shown, the performer's thumb may tap against it secretly.

The addition of a Thumb Tip on the thumb of the hand holding the board will make the raps sharp and audible at a distance.

Vantor's original idea was published in the "Magic Wand" almost 15 years ago.

In 1942, L. Vosburgh Lyons published a somewhat similar effect both in the "Phoenix" and the "Linking Ring." In this case, the performer puts a steel ball in a soup plate and covers it with another soup plate. He holds the plates between his hands and soon raps are heard from inside the plates.

Secret:

The magician has a metal Tip on his middle finger and taps it against the bottom plate. The plates are held so that the audience has no chance to get a tell-tale bottom view. The sound seems to emanate from the steel ball under cover.



THUMB TIE WITH RUBBER BANDS

This, as Will Goldston used to say, is one of the plums of the book.

The magician drapes a handkerchief over his thumbs and instructs a spectator to wind two heavy rubber bands around them.

"IF I pull out a thumb, you will notice it because the rubber bands will then be around one thumb," he demonstrates. "And I would have to be a good magician indeed to get the thumb back without it being obvious." He shows how obvious it would be.

Once more with thumbs cloth covered and encircled with rubber bands he has hoops thrown his way. They pass through his arms. He continues with all the many phases of the Thumb Tie.

Secret:

A Thumb Tip is concealed in the right hand, hidden by closed fingers, when the thumbs are first shown. As soon as the handkerchief is thrown over them, the right thumb bends into the tip and straightens up. Result: The rubber bands hold the Thumb Tip and left thumb snugly together, but the right thumb can now slip in and out without the movement being detectable.

In wrapping the handkerchief over the thumbs, make sure that most of it hangs down in front and that the overlapping edge extends only slightly below the Thumb Tip in rear, towards you. This will allow greater freedom in pulling out and replacing your thumb.

CHAPMAN'S TAPED THUMBS

Since Ten Ichi first introduced the Thumb Tie in America, many methods have been invented to duplicate the effect. Thumbs have been wired together with pipe cleaners, bound with narrow straps and even wound with rubber bands. Certainly no method is more novel than that devised by Frank Chapman. He has his thumbs taped together with adhesive tape. Still solid rings tossed his way pass uncannily on his arms, then off again, he can pass his hands through the back of a chair, etc.

Secret:

A long Thumb Tip on the right thumb. The magician starts winding a wide piece of adhesive tape around this thumb (the Thumb Tip really) pressing it first to the underside then bringing it around and over the top thus hiding the

Tip from view. He brings his left thumb close to his right and allows a spectator to finish the winding-around process with the additional length of hanging tape.

Though it would appear impossible for anyone to slip his thumb in and out of this tight and sticky binding, it is actually a simple thing to do because of the Thumb Tip.

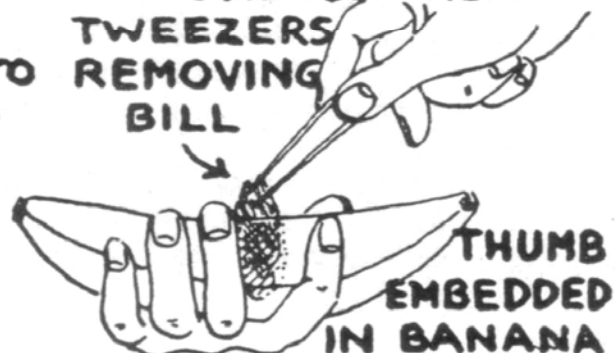
At conclusion of trick, give spectator a pair of scissors and tell him to insert blades in the center of tape, between thumbs, and cut towards you. After cut is completed, separate your thumbs, unwind tape from left thumb, pretend to do likewise with other thumb, then crumple tape around Tip and place all in your pocket.

Jim Conley has a bit of extra advice for those who intend to perform this excellent trick. Punch a small hole into the end of the Thumb Tip. This permits an easy withdrawal and insertion even with a tight fitting Tip.

PERFORMER'S VIEW



AUDIENCE VIEW



DOLLAR IN BANANA

After the serial number has been noted, a borrowed dollar is tucked into the center of a handkerchief, the handkerchief is rolled up and passed into the custody of an onlooker. One of several bananas is selected by another spectator.

You whisk open the handkerchief—the dollar has vanished! Take out a pair of tweezers and dig down into the banana. When you pull the tweezers out, they hold the vanished borrowed bill. Serial number can be verified.

Secret:

The bill is put in a Thumb Tip in the handkerchief and stolen on your right thumb as described earlier.

When a banana has been selected, you pick it up and call attention first to it, then to the handkerchief which the spectator holds. The audience's attention is on the handkerchief as you push the Thumb Tip through the banana and deep down inside, leaving it there. The shape of the Thumb Tip makes this an easy task. See illustration.

Hold the banana so that no one can see the place of entry made by the Tip. Reach into the Tip with your tweezers, get the bill and remove it with a maximum of showmanship.

BILL IN SOFT ROLL

Karl Norman prefers to have one of several Parker House rolls selected. He forces the Thumb Tip (with the bill inside it) into the roll, then removes the bill by reaching inside with forefinger and thumb. Parker House rolls are ideal for the trick because they have a soft outer surface.

BILL IN HARD CRUST ROLL

If, however, you wish to do the trick with a hard crust roll, break the selected roll between your two hands, then push the Tip into one of the two sections, then remove the bill from it. The inside of even the hardest roll is usually soft.

REIMER'S RIBBON CUT

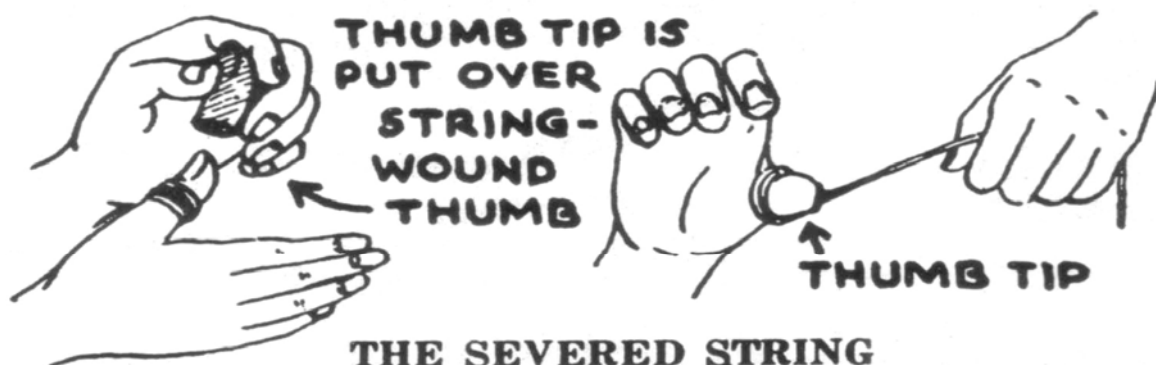
Credit Rudy Reimer with this novel handling of a Thumb Tip. The effect—a length of ribbon is cut in several pieces by a spectator and tied together. The performer winds the tied pieces around his thumb. He remembers that there is a paper sticker on the end of the ribbon and asks the spectator to mark it with his initials. This done, the magic man says his mystic words or makes his strange passes. The ribbon is unwound and found to be restored—in one piece.

Secret:

Two matching ribbons, both with stickers on their ends, are used. One ribbon is wound around the performer's right thumb with the sticker end on the outside. This thumb is covered with a Thumb Tip.

After the spectator cuts and ties the other ribbon, the performer wraps it around the Thumb Tip. He holds the Tip's end directly toward the spectator. From this angle the Thumb Tip looks exactly like the end of his thumb.

Then the magician steals the Tip. The ribbon around his thumb looks like the one which was taken away on the Tip. The sticker at the end of this ribbon is signed by the spectator. All that remains is to unwrap the ribbon to show that a restoration has been effected.



While I admire Mr. Reimer's basic idea, the actual handling of the trick is more complicated than I think it should be.

I use string in place of the ribbon because string is a much more usual property. I have the spectator make a single cut. I don't use the tag on the end.

As misdirection for stealing the Thumb Tip, I cover it with my left hand and say: "Obviously I can't slide the string off of my finger without your seeing it." So saying, I deliberately take off the Thumb Tip, and hold it concealed in my left cupped fingers.

"I'll do this in secret," I add, bending my string-wrapped thumb into the closed fist of my right hand. A moment or two later, I announce that the string is fully repaired. I open my hand and let the spectator unwind the string.

SPIRIT KNOTS

Hen Fetsch suggests that you wrap a string with a dozen knots along its length around your Thumb Tip. Hold all in your left fist.

Call attention to a matching piece of straight string. Put this string into your fist. Steal the Tip (with this string inside). When you open your closed hand, it seems as if the spirits (who else?) have tied knots under the cover of your closed hand.

THE MYSTERIOUS CORD

The performer tells an onlooker to tie several knots along a twelve inch length of string so that he will recognize it later. The performer then twists a dollar bill into the shape of a cone and drops the string inside. The top is folded down. A spectator holds the cone.

The magician takes a second dollar and rolls it into a second cone. Hocus pocus, the knotted string passes from the spectator's package into the wizard's.

Secret:

When the performer makes the first cone, he forms it around his right thumb and, in so doing, gets the Thumb Tip inside open end up. He takes care that no one can see inside. The knotted string is put in the cone (and in the Tip). In the act of pushing the string inside, the wizard removes the Thumb Tip. The top of the package is folded and the spectator is told to hold it by its lower end.

In making the second cone, the wizard gets the thumb Tip inside it. After proper showmanship, the first cone is shown empty and the knotted string is withdrawn from the second.



CIGARETTE TO STRING

If you want a neat transition from a cigarette trick to a string routine, put the cigarette in your left fist, say a few magic words and change it into a piece of string.

Preparation:

The string is wrapped around a Thumb Tip. The free end is tucked under the rest to hold it in place. The string-wrapped Tip is hidden in your left hand.

Drop a burning cigarette into your left fist (into Tip). Push it in and steal the Tip, on right thumb, but retain the

string in your left hand. A few pressing motions with your left fingers, then open your hand to show that the cigarette has changed into a piece of string.

SILKEN DOLLARS

Patter about the silk thread that the United States government puts into dollar bills, then form a dollar into the shape of a tube, reach in and withdraw several yards of thread.

The thread is in a Thumb Tip on your right thumb. Roll the dollar around this thumb to form a cylinder. When you withdraw your thumb, leave the Thumb Tip in the dollar.

Take out only a few inches of thread at first then increase your speed for the production of the rest of it.

Steal out the Tip on your thumb as you unroll the dollar.

INFLATED MONEY

Hubert Lambert, of Dublin, suggests that you form a borrowed dollar into the shape of a tube, then comment on the diminishing value of dollars over the years. Explain that a magician, were he in charge of the treasury, could add greatly to the value of money. Tip the dollar tube and pour out two dimes.

Secret:

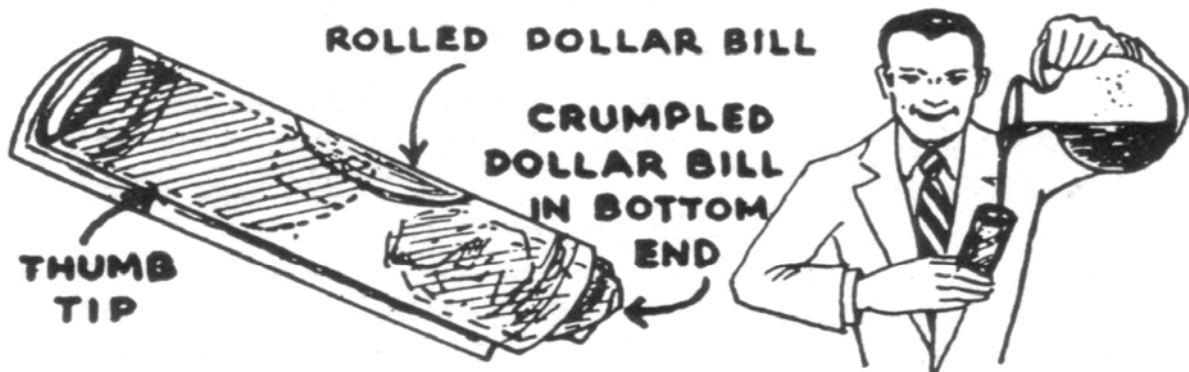
The dimes are in the Thumb Tip on your right thumb. You get this in the tube as described in the previous trick. Steal out the Tip and return the dollar, with thanks, to the person who gave it to you. Keep the twenty cents yourself unless you're in a "Share the Wealth" mood.

WATERPROOF GREENBACK

Water is poured into a rolled-up dollar. It doesn't run out of the bottom end. After the tube is tipped and the water poured out, the dollar is perfectly dry.

Secret:

A Thumb Tip is rolled up in the dollar near top of bill. Water poured into the dollar enters the Tip and, of course, goes no further. When the water is emptied out, the Tip is stolen and the dry dollar may be passed for examination.



WATERPROOF VARIATION

This to my way of thinking is a much more logical presentation of the feat just described.

One dollar is crumpled, another is formed into a tube around it, crumpled dollar on bottom. The Thumb Tip goes in as usual during the procedure.

Pour water into the tube. It doesn't run out at the far end. Aha, thinks a spectator, the crumpled bill inside stops the flow.

Reach in at the bottom and remove the crumpled bill. Still the water remains inside.

Push the crumpled bill back into the cylinder, from bottom, then empty out the liquid and unroll the dollar, stealing the Tip as you do.

Neither of the dollars is wet at the conclusion of the trick.

BURNING A DOLLAR

Effect:

A marked, borrowed dollar is sealed in a pay envelope and the envelope is burned to ashes.

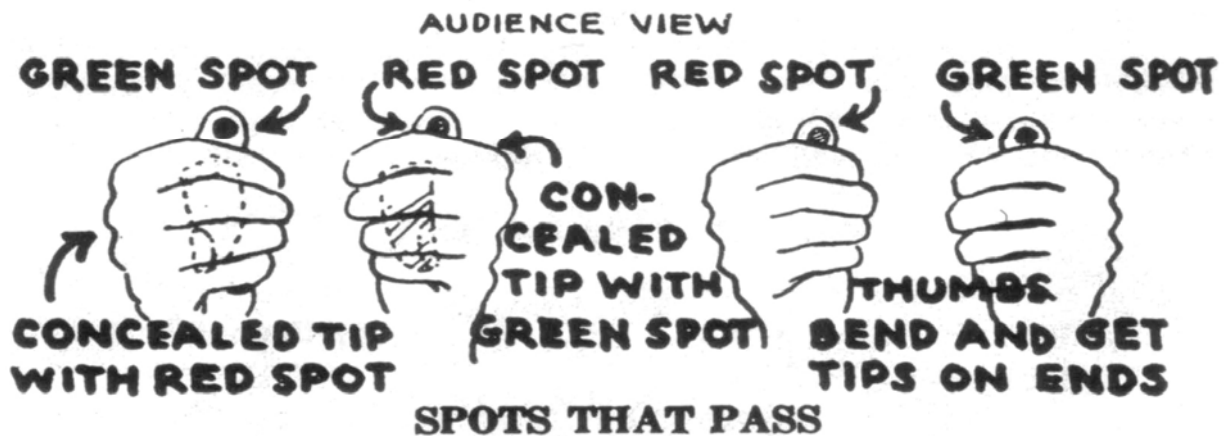
The performer takes a small amount of the ashes between his fingers. He rubs it. The dollar mysteriously reappears.

Secret:

When the wizard opens the envelope so that he may put the borrowed bill inside, he leaves the Thumb Tip, which was on his thumb, inside. The borrowed dollar, folded into a small packet, goes into the Tip. The performer takes out the Tip with the usual move on his right thumb.

After the envelope has been destroyed, he picks up some of the ashes between his right index finger and thumb. When he brings his hands together he gets the dollar bill out of the Tip during a rubbing motion and gradually brings it into view.

If a folded piece of flash-paper is put in the bottom of the envelope previous to the performance, the performer may hold a match behind the envelope so that a shadow (apparently of the dollar) is visible. Further, when the flame reaches the flash-paper there is a sudden dramatic burst of fire.



Paste a red paper circle on the tip of your right thumb, a green one on the tip of your left thumb. Zip, presto, the red changes places with the green. Presto, zip, a reverse change is made.

Needed:

Two Thumb Tips, two red circular stickers about half an inch in diameter, two green stickers of the same size.

Before you do the trick, stick a red disk on your right thumb and a green one on your left. Cover each thumb with a Thumb Tip. See illustration.

In doing the trick, call attention to the two colored stickers. Paste one on each Thumb Tip in the same position as the disks on your thumbs underneath. With your fingers closed and your Thumb Tips pointed upwards, command the colors to pass. Quickly bend each thumb into its fist. Leave the Tips hidden by your fingers and straighten your thumbs. It seems as though the disks jump from one hand to the other. An up and down motion with each hand helps the illusion.

Cause the spots to hop back by getting the Tips on again, then to return once more by putting them in your fists again.

BILL IN NESTED ENVELOPES

A marked dollar has vanished. Pick up a sealed envelope, tear it open. Inside is another sealed envelope. Rip this open. A third sealed envelope is withdrawn. Tear the end away and take out the spectator's dollar.

Secret:

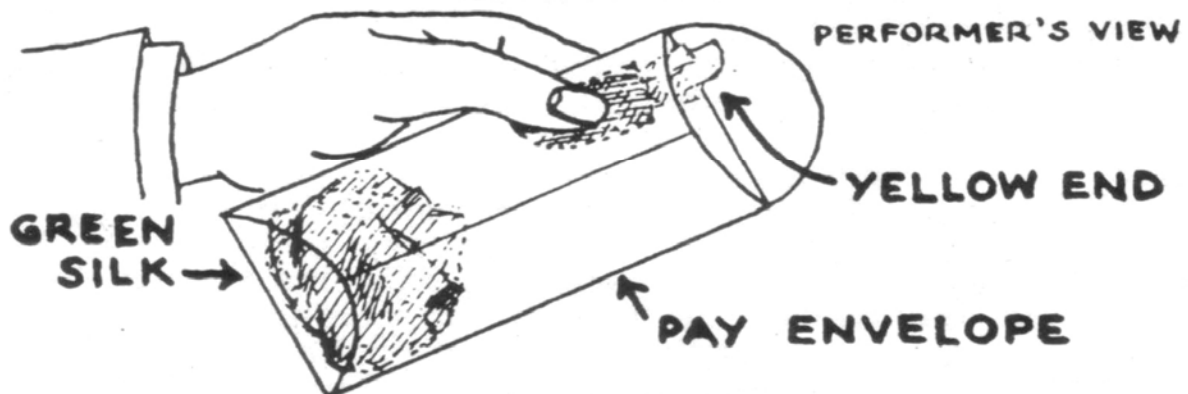
Keep the Thumb Tip on your right thumb as you open the first two envelopes. Reach in the third envelope with your thumb. Leave the Tip inside and withdraw the bill.

Get rid of envelope by crumpling it (around Tip) and placing it in your pocket.

SOLID SUGAR

Hen Fetsch uses this clever feat as an after dinner trick. He pours sugar into his left fist, passes a lighted match under his hand, then opens it to show the sugar in solid cube form.

Hold a Thumb Tip and a cube of sugar in your left hand. Take several pinches of sugar and tuck them into the left fist. Use your right thumb to shove in the last bit and, in so doing, steal the Tip and the loose sugar it contains. Get rid of the Tip when you reach in your coat pocket for a match.



SILK SWITCH

A green silk is put in one small pay envelope, a yellow one in another. Shuffle the two envelopes, then pass one to a spectator. "Which silk do you think is in the envelope I hold?" you ask.

Someone hazards a guess. You reach in and pull out a corner to show that the yellow one is in your package.

You tuck it back and announce that you'll cause the silks to switch places instantly.

Rip open your envelope. It now holds the green silk! The helpful spectator reaches in his envelope and withdraws the yellow silk.

Secret:

Previously make a tiny finger nail mark near the top edge of one envelope so that you can distinguish it from the other.

Put the green silk in this envelope. Now, no matter how you mix the two envelopes between your hands, you can always recognize the one that holds the green silk. Keep this envelope and give the other one to a spectator.

When someone guesses the color of the silk in your envelope, reach in with your right thumb, which wears a Thumb Tip that has a bit of yellow silk glued to it, and pull out the silk corner from the Tip. See illustration. The envelope hides the Tip. Tuck the corner back and steal the Tip on your thumb as you do.

Whenever you wish, you can announce that the silks have changed places.

QUICK CHANGE

Using the method just described you can cause a dollar sealed in one envelope to change places with a ribbon sealed in another.

In this case you have a piece of red ribbon in your Thumb Tip.

Make sure that you retain the envelope which holds the bill after the shuffling.

The fact that two dissimilar items, a ribbon and a dollar, are used, makes the feat even more puzzling.

HEN FETSCH'S BANK NIGHT

Neither special tray nor complicated apparatus is necessary for this terrific presentation. The wizard shows several envelopes. He announces that all but one are empty. That one contains a twenty dollar bill.

He allows spectators to take free choices of the envelopes until he has only one left.

The onlookers rip open their choices. All are empty. The conjurer opens the remaining envelope. It has a twenty dollar bill inside!

Secret:

All the envelopes are empty! A Thumb Tip on the performer's right thumb holds a folded bank note. When he opens the last envelope, he reaches in with his thumb, pulls out the bill and leaves the Thumb Tip behind. While the audience is enviously regarding the twenty dollars, he crumples the envelope and disposes of it and the Thumb Tip in his side coat pocket.

ANNEMANN MOVE

Annemann worked out dozens of uses for the Thumb Tip. Most of them for mental effects. I saw him use the trick which follows on several occasions.

Effect:

A spectator writes a name on a small slip of paper, folds it in quarters then puts it on the mentalist's hand. The mentalist passes it to another spectator who sets it afire. The performer removes another slip from his pocket. He concentrates, then writes something. The name he writes is the

same as that originally inscribed by the first spectator.

Secret:

A small, two by three slip, folded in quarters, is in the Thumb Tip on the performer's right thumb. The spectator writes on a matching slip, which is folded in quarters, too. When the spectator's slip is put on the magician's left hand, the performer seems to take it with his right hand and pass it to a second spectator for burning.

Actually, he puts his right thumb over the slip. He closes his left hand and pulls the slip away with his right thumb. The slip taken away is the one that was inside the Tip. The spectator's slip and the Thumb Tip, which was placed over it, are still held in the left hand, which later drops them in the left coat pocket.

When the magician reaches for a slip in his left pocket, he takes out the spectator's slip and makes believe that he writes on it.

THE VANISHING CARD

Twenty-eight years ago, Franciscus was using a Thumb Tip to cause the pieces of a torn card to disappear from the center of a borrowed handkerchief during a card in cigarette trick.

Draping the handkerchief over his left hand, Franciscus made a pocket in the center by pushing downward with his right thumb. He left the Tip it wore in the pocket.

The torn pieces of the card were dropped into the Thumb Tip and the Tip was stolen as his right thumb seemed to push the pieces further down.

The handkerchief was then balled up and given to an on-looker to hold.

Whenever he wanted the pieces to disappear, Franciscus took one corner of the handkerchief and pulled it open. Naturally it was empty.

THE VANISHING CIGARETTE

It was only a short step from this, according to Walter Gibson, to the well known trick which is greatly responsible for the tremendous popularity of the Thumb Tip—the vanishing of a lighted cigarette.

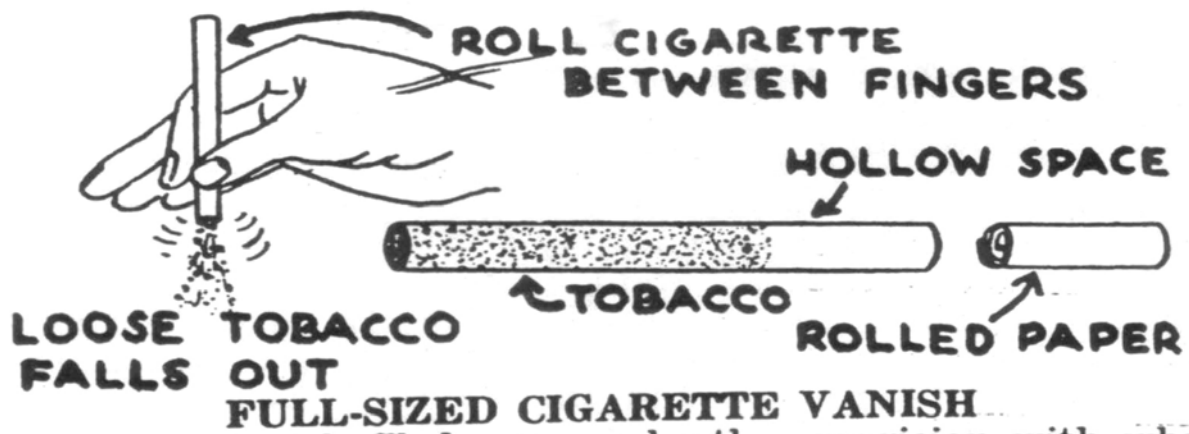
The performer makes a pocket in the center of a borrowed handkerchief draped over his left fist as described above, leaving the Thumb Tip inside.

A borrowed cigarette which has been smoked at least a third away is now dropped into the opening. Smoke curls upwards and the owner of the handkerchief starts to worry.

The wizard forces the cigarette deeper with his thumb and steals out the Tip.

He reaches in his side pocket for a bit of "voodoo dust," leaves the Tip there and makes believe that he sprinkles the "dust" over the cloth.

When he opens the handkerchief, the cigarette has vanished and the cloth is unharmed.



Jarrow has baffled many a brother magician with what seemed to be a sleight of hand vanish of a full length lighted cigarette.

He previously prepares a cigarette by rolling and squeezing it between his fingers until a third of the tobacco drops out of the bottom end. He then inserts a piece of paper, rolled tube-shaped, into the hollow space of the cigarette so that it may keep its form. See illustration.

This cigarette may now be jammed into a regular Thumb Tip, which normally will take only a much smaller length. Of course, Thumb Tip, with cigarette in it, is then "stolen" in the usual manner.

FLASH TIP

A neat addition to the usual vanishing cigarette in handkerchief routine is to cause a brilliant flash of fire to shoot from the lighted end of the cigarette just before you drop it in the cloth.

Have a crumpled square of flashpaper in your Tip. When you push the Tip down in the pocket of the handkerchief pull out the flashpaper when you withdraw your thumb. Keep the flashpaper concealed in your closed right fingers.

Pick up the lighted cigarette with your right hand and touch its burning tip to the concealed paper just before you put the cigarette in the handkerchief. The result is a sudden brilliant flash.

Look surprised momentarily, then carry on with the trick.



Effect: SILK PRODUCTION

The wizard shows his left hand freely, reaches out in space with a grabbing motion then closes his fist. He announces that he has produced a silk handkerchief. His right hand pulls a bit of silk into view from his left fist, then he lets the complete silk spring out between his hands.

Secret:

A Thumb Tip with a bit of red silk glued inside is on your left thumb. A rolled-up silk is held secretly in your closed right hand, which hangs naturally at your side.

Show your left hand with a waving motion. Apparently pull a silk from space and close your hand around it. As you close your hand, bend your thumb. Retain the Tip in your closed fingers, withdraw your thumb.

Reach in the left fist with your right thumb and forefinger and pull out the bit of silk from the Thumb Tip. Display your left hand with the silk protruding, then with your right forefinger and thumb push the silk back in the Tip and steal the Tip on your right thumb. At the same time allow the concealed silk in your right hand to be grasped by the fingers of your left hand. Let the silk open out between both hands, as in illustration.

CONFETTI TO SILK

To prepare:

Hold a small multi-colored silk by diagonal ends, twist it rope-wise and wind the silk around your Thumb Tip. Hold the silk-wrapped Thumb Tip in your left fist.

To Perform:

Take some loose confetti from your right pocket. Drop it in your left fist. Bring out the Thumb Tip secretly on your right thumb. Reach for a little more confetti. Leave the Tip in your right coat pocket. Sprinkle the confetti so that most of it falls over the side of your left fist.

At your command, the confetti changes to silk. Open your left hand and shake out the multi-colored handkerchief. The confetti has vanished!



ALLEN'S TIE TRICK

Kenneth Allen is not content to vanish a cigarette in a friend's handkerchief. He prefers to use his tie. With his left hand cupped under the broadest point of someone's four in hand tie, he pushes the center of the tie downwards with his right thumb. This makes a pocket and leaves the Thumb Tip in place for instant action.

While the friend is still baffled by the sudden seizure of his tie, the magician drops in a lighted cigarette, forces it down with his right thumb and steals the Tip (and the cigarette it now holds) when he withdraws his thumb.

Before the spectator becomes too upset, the tie falls from

the wizard's left hand. It is unburned and the cigarette has vanished. Of course the tie is held slightly above spectator's eye level until Thumb Tip is removed.

A TANNEN TIP

Many magicians prefer to use Lou Tannen's getaway for the Thumb Tip instead of the "reaching in pocket" disposal.

When Mr. Tannen withdraws his thumb and the Tip, he grasps one corner of the handkerchief with his thumb on the underside, fingers on top. He pulls slowly until the spectators see the cigarette is not in the indentation, then he takes an adjacent corner with his left hand and shows the handkerchief back and front like a magician showing a foulard previous to the production of a fish bowl. In this motion, his right hand comes across to the left until it is in front of his coat's handkerchief pocket, while the left hand moves the cloth to the right.

When his left thumb reaches his handkerchief pocket, he pushes the Thumb Tip in it, then immediately moves his hand away. This is a perfect getaway!

KNOTS UNTIED

Effect:

A knotted string is sealed in a pay envelope. At your command the knots vanish.

Secret:

Previously conceal one length of string in the bottom of a pay envelope. Allow a spectator to tie a series of knots along a matching piece.

Open the envelope, leaving the Tip inside. Put the knotted cord in the envelope (and into the Tip). Steal the Tip, seal the flap and pass the envelope to an onlooker.

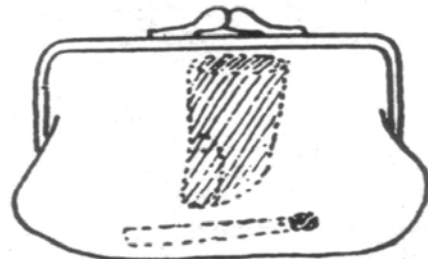
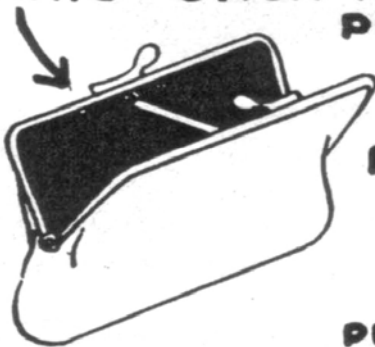
When the person who holds the envelope opens it, he finds that the knots have disappeared.

THE CUT RESTORED

Using the same method, you may perform still another version of the cut and restored string trick.

In this effect, the cut and tied string is changed back to its original form.

**MATCH STICK TO KEEP
PURSE
OPEN
IN YOUR
POCKET**



**THUMB TIP IS PUT IN PURSE,
MATCH STICK FALLS TO BOTTOM.
PURSE IS THEN SNAPPED SHUT**

BILL IN PURSE

Here's another novel way of producing the vanished bill. An open coin purse, with a matchstick across the top to

keep it that way, is in your right coat pocket. See illustration. When you reach in your pocket, push the Thumb Tip (which has the borrowed bill inside it) into the purse. The match falls to the bottom. Snap the purse shut and bring it into view.

Open the purse, reach in and produce the missing green-back.

AMAZING PREDICTION

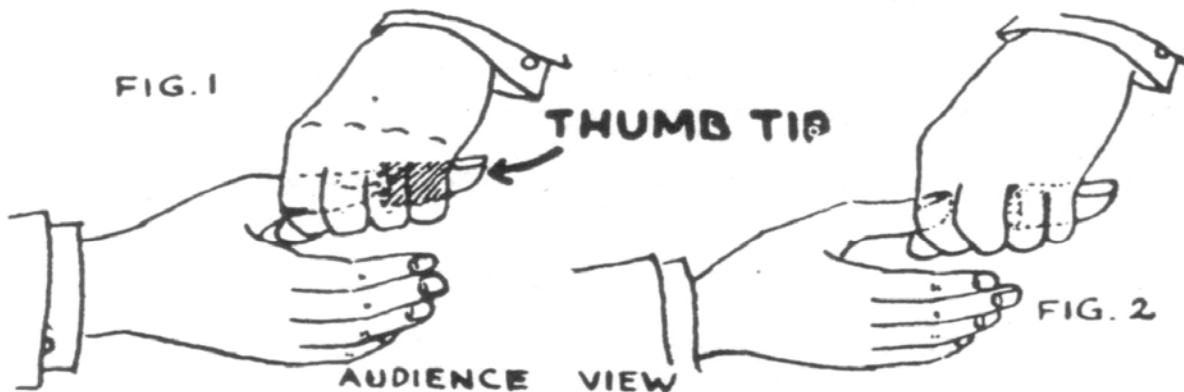
If you have an assistant, you may present a remarkable prediction effect during your performance.

Near the start of the show, jot down a prophesy, for instance the winner of a fight to be staged that evening and the round he will win in. Seal this in a pay envelope and drop it in a drinking glass where it remains on view through your show.

When news comes of the outcome of the event, you open the envelope, take out your prophesy and pass it to a spectator for verification. It is, of course, correct.

How? Your assistant listens to a portable radio offstage and as soon as the result is announced, he writes it on a slip of paper the same size as the one you sealed in the glass. Your assistant folds the billet and slips it into a Thumb Tip. When your next trick is brought out on a tray, the Thumb Tip is concealed behind it. Get the Tip on your thumb and you are ready for the climax.

Open the envelope, reach in with your thumb, leave the Tip and pull out the slip it contains. Pass it to a spectator for reading. Get rid of the envelope, and the Tip by crumpling it and dropping it in your pocket.



THUMB STRETCHING

Houdini used to get a tremendous response when he apparently stretched his thumb to TWICE its normal length.

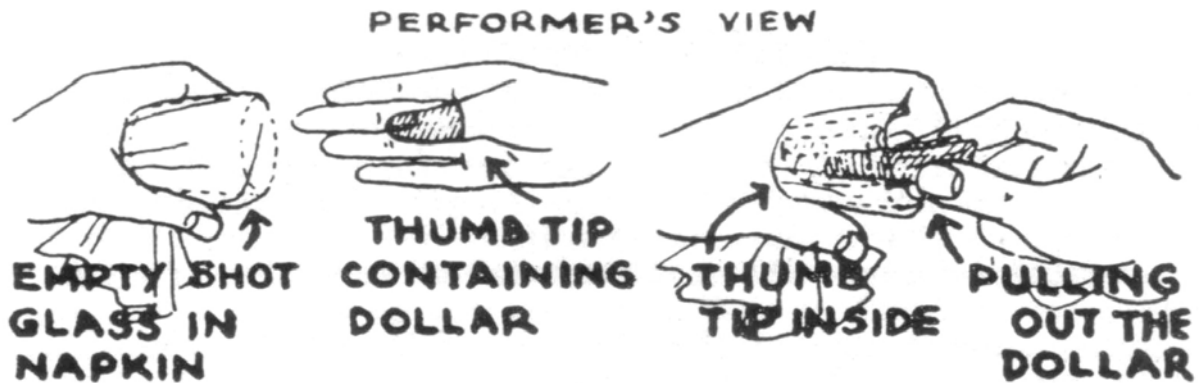
A Thumb Tip may be used to make this feat extra effective.

Have the Tip on your left thumb.

Wrap your right fingers around it and in so doing, bend the fingers of right hand back until the Thumb Tip is held by the little finger of your right hand. Now withdraw your left thumb slowly. This leaves the Thumb Tip in right hand.

With the Thumb Tip extending slightly from your right fist at the far end (see Fig. 1) pull your left thumb out of right fist, making facial expressions as though you were stretching it (see Fig. 2).

Never pull it so far as to let the thumb nail of left hand be in view. After it is "stretched" twice the natural size, push it back to the normal length. Once more get the Thumb Tip on your left thumb and casually show both hands at the feat's finish.



BILL IN SHOT GLASS

As I typed this, Hen Fetsch, who was looking over my shoulder, reminded me that he used an empty shot glass wrapped in a paper napkin for the destination of a vanished bill to great effect.

At the start of the trick, he wrapped the whiskey glass with a paper napkin, twisted the ends under the bottom of the glass, then gave it to a friend to hold. When he wanted the bill to appear, he pushed his right thumb through the paper drumhead, left the Tip in the glass and removed the bill with his index finger and thumb. His left index finger held the Tip against the inside of the glass to prevent "talking."

I thought that the metal tip would sound against the glass, so we got glass, napkin, tip and bill and tried it.

There was no tell-tale click. The effect, you will find when you try it, is a very convincing bit of skullduggery.

BILL IN EGG

A borrowed dollar has been vanished from an envelope or the center of a handkerchief. The wizard cracks open an egg, then with a pair of tweezers, he removes a bill from the shell. It is the same bill the spectator gave him at the start of the trick.

Secret:

When the dollar disappears from either the envelope or handkerchief, it winds up in a Thumb Tip on the performer's right thumb.

As soon as the top of the egg is cracked, the magician pushes his right thumb in, leaves the Tip, then withdraws his empty hand. This must be done without the spectators being aware of what is happening. They believe that the magician first tries to take out the bill with his fingers, then uses tweezers as a matter of delicacy.

Though the trick is messy, it is remarkably effective.



SEALED ENVELOPE READING

Push a small piece cut from a large sponge deep down in a Thumb Tip. Saturate it with pure alcohol. (Not rubbing alcohol.) Put the Thumb Tip in your right coat pocket.

When you want to read writing on cards which have been sealed in envelopes which are not too thick, put your right hand in your pocket as you hold the envelopes in your left hand. Insert your thumb in the Tip and wet it with the alcohol on the sponge.

Withdraw the hand from your pocket. (Not the Thumb Tip.) Rub your wet thumb over the face of the envelope. The alcohol will make the section it comes in contact with transparent. Care must be taken so that the audience will not get a glimpse of this side of the envelope.

When the alcohol dries, it will leave no mark.

Some mentalists cut holes in the ends of their Tips so that the sponge will extend through. When they get the Tip on their thumbs, they rub the extending portion of the sponge over the envelope.

INFLATED MONEY

Effect: A dollar bill is borrowed, then rolled into the shape of a tube. Say "A dollar today is worth less than in former years, but if a magician was in charge of the Treasury, dollars would have much GREATER value." Then tip the dollar tube and pour out two dimes!

SECRET: The dimes have been previously hidden in the T.T. on your right thumb. Roll the dollar bill around the T.T. when you form the tube. Withdraw your thumb and leave the T.T. in the dollar (on top). Now tip the tube and pour out the dimes. Steal out the tip on your thumb as you unroll the dollar. Say "Did you give me this dollar?" The spectator will say "yes". Place the dollar in your pocket, thus getting rid of the T.T., then return the dollar to the spectator.

THE MAGICIANS CODE

1. Never tell the secret of a trick.

The enjoyment of magic is in fooling your friends.

Exposing a trick not only destroys the entertainment value of the trick, but, also means you will be unable to show it to your friends again.

2. Practice makes perfect.

The more you practice, the better a magician you will be.

The less you practice, the harder it will be for you to fool and entertain your friends.

CIGARETTE THROUGH HANDKERCHIEF

No 1



No 2



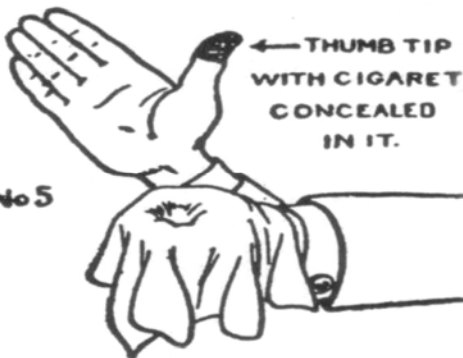
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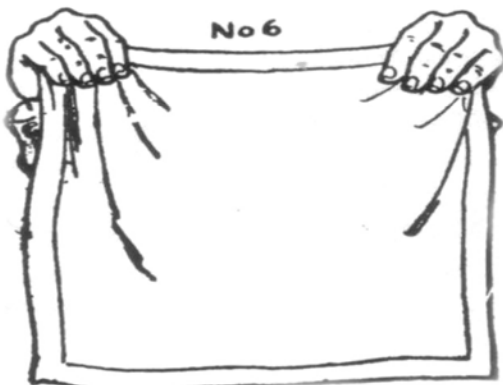
No 4



No 5



No 6



Effect.—You borrow a handkerchief and pass a LIT cigarette through it. The handkerchief is undamaged and the cigarette has disappeared.

Directions.—Place the enclosed metal thumb tip in your lower right hand vest pocket or in a place where it is handy to get at.

Borrow a handkerchief and also borrow a cigarette, if possible (the effect is better if both are borrowed).

FIRST.—Hold your left hand as shown in figure one.

SECOND.—Cover the hand with the handkerchief. (During these moves slip your right thumb into the metal thumb).

THIRD.—Insert your right thumb in handkerchief as shown in figure three. Withdraw your thumb but LEAVE THE METAL THUMB in the handkerchief.

FOURTH.—Insert the cigarette in handkerchief, lit end first. (It is really inserted in the metal thumb).

FIFTH.—Show the right hand to be empty. Then insert the thumb into the handkerchief (apparently to push the cigarette through). You really force the cigarette inside the metal thumb and then carry it away on your thumb as shown on figure five. Keep the hand in motion after taking it out and the false thumb will be invisible.

SIXTH.—Shake out the handkerchief, hold it in front of you as shown in figure six. This shows the handkerchief to be undamaged and also enables you to dispose of the fake thumb before being seen.