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The Fold Itself Bill**

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Fold Itself Bill

A dollar bill is removed from your pocket, unfolded and displayed to your audience. Suddenly, the bill begins to move! More than just move.. It folds itself one way and then the other, until it is completely folded!



Animation by [FTPMagic](http://FTPMagic.com)

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Effect

A dollar bill is removed from your pocket, unfolded and displayed to your audience. Suddenly, the bill begins to move! More than just move.. It folds itself one way and then the other, until it has **folded itself up!**

Needed Items

All you need to construct and perform this amazing trick is:

- One ordinary dollar bill
- Thin monofilament line (fishline), or black thread and needle
- Clear tape

Construction

Although it would seem that the mechanism that makes the bill fold up must be complex, it is actually quite simple.

First, the bill is folded up by folding it in half 3 times. Fold it first as in **photo 1**. The second fold is shown in **photo 2**, the third in **3**.



photo 1



photo 2



photo 3

Now you must pass the thread through half of the bill using the needle. You will be passing through what will become the bottom of our setup, and into the middle folds of the bill. **Photo 4** shows the situation, with the thread already through.

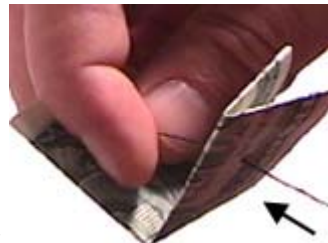


photo 4

You will be pushing the thread through 4 layers total. Be careful not to poke yourself, you don't need to push very hard, work the needle through carefully and don't rip a large hole.

Once you have the thread through the bill, you must attach the end of the thread to the center of the portion shown in **photo 5**, using a piece of clear tape.



photo 5

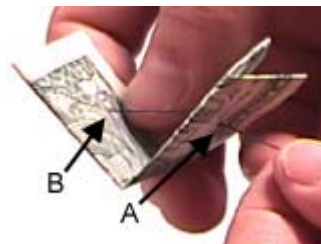


photo 6

Once you have done that, you should be in the situation shown in **photo 6**. The thread passes through the bill at point A, and is attached with a piece of clear tape at point B.

Cut the thread about 15 inches away from the bill and attach the end to a deck of cards, your wallet, or some other object you feel comfortable carrying in your front pants pocket. The item in your pocket is used as an anchor for the thread and is not seen during the trick.

Place the anchor object with the thread attached into your pocket and you're ready to begin.

Performance

Start by carefully unfolding the bill. You must have enough slack in the thread as you open the bill to allow for the thread to adjust as you unfold the bill. Black thread was used for the example you can see the thread against the bill as it is unfolded in **photos 8 and 9**.



photo 7



photo 8

During actual performance you will do this casually as you begin the trick. Holding the bill in the proper position and keeping a bit of a distance between yourself and your audience will help to conceal your thread. Dark and patterned clothing will also help to conceal the thread from the spectators, even at close range.



photo 9



photo 10

Once you have unfolded the bill, casually lay it on your open palm as in **photo 9**.

The thread runs under the bill between the fingers as shown in **photo 10**.

From there, it runs straight back and down a bit into your pocket where it is attached to your anchor (deck of cards or wallet). **Figure 11** shows the situation. The thread is indicated by the red line.

Your hand should be held at a natural, comfortable distance from your body. Adjust your thread to the proper length to facilitate this.



figure 11



photo 12

Now you are ready to make the bill fold up. Moving your hand slowly away from your body will cause the bill to slowly fold over on itself, first one way, then the other as shown in **photo 12**. This really looks amazing!

Once the bill has folded itself, grip it between your thumb and fingers and put the bill into your pocket. Now you are reset for another performance!

- End

Closing credits: Many versions of this effect have been published over the years. To the best of my knowledge though, the first person to perform the self folding bill was Al Faria, from New York.

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