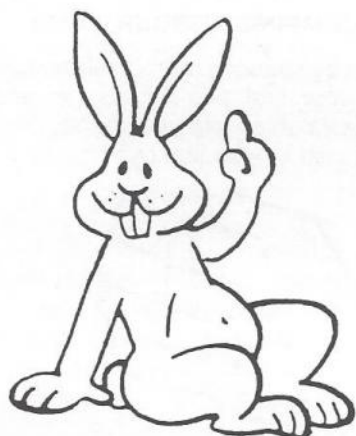




THAT'S MAGIC!

JIM STOTT'S

Easy Magic for Beginners



WHAT IS MAGIC? Ask anyone who has ever seen a magic show and you'll hear, "MAGIC IS FUN!" Not only is magic fun to watch, but it is also fun to perform. Magic can make people smile and laugh and marvel at the mysterious wonders the magician presents. If, of course, you present the magic properly.

AS A BEGINNER IN MAGIC, there is one special thing I want you to know--- YOUR MAGIC MUST ENTERTAIN. Magic should be more than just doing tricks. Make people laugh and smile with your magic. Practice it, perfect it, then entertain with it! Learning how to entertain people comes with experience. Meanwhile, as you start learning, here are some basic rules of magic. Study them carefully and think them over. Here they are:

BASIC RULES OF MAGIC

1. *Never tell how you do a trick.* This is the most important rule in magic. It is what makes magic special and mysterious. Good magicians never reveal or expose their magic secrets. If the audience discovers how you do a trick, you lose respect and your audience loses interest in your magic. People are naturally fascinated by magic—as long as they don't know how it's done. So let's keep it that way. How? *Keep it a secret!*

2. *Never tell your audience exactly what you are going to do before you do it.* Much of magic is built on surprise. People love to be surprised. Think of opening Christmas presents. If you don't know what is in a wrapped package, you'll be surprised when you open it. Likewise, keep your audiences guessing and surprise them with your next feat of mystery. If you hold up a bunch of gem clips, don't say they're going to vanish. Instead, say something like, "Watch this bunch of gem clips. They may change colors." When they vanish, tell your audience, "That is, if they would stay around long enough." See what I mean? Surprise them!

3. *Never repeat a trick for the same audience.* Whether the audience is one friend or a group of people, stick to this rule. When someone says, "Do it again," DON'T DO IT AGAIN! The first time you show a trick, you usually catch

the audience off guard. If you show the same trick again, they will be watching more closely because they know what is going to happen. And they will watch for *how* it's done the second time, not for what is done.

4. *Practice, practice, practice.* First practice the basic mechanics of each trick. Learn the trick inside and out. Practice it over and over so you can perform it smoothly. One of the best places to practice is in front of a mirror, so you can see what the trick looks like to the audience. Once you can present the trick without a hitch, practice how you will perform it for an audience. Performers call that *presentation*. And presentation is just as important as the mechanics of the trick. Practice also your *patter*, the words and stories you will use as you present the trick. All these things must go together to make your magic entertaining.

5. *Be yourself.* When you present your magic, do it your way. Don't try to be Houdini, Doug Henning, Mark Wilson, or anyone else. It's okay to use other magicians as guides or models, but don't try to be someone else. *Be you.* After all, there is only one YOU in the whole, wide world. Nobody can be you but you. So develop your own natural style. Your performances will come easier that way.

From time to time, as you progress in magic, come back and study these rules. Remember them. Follow them. Good magicians have been following them for hundreds of years, so they must be important.

LINKING GEM CLIPS

Without touching a pair of gem clips, you cause them to magically link together. Ready for the secret?

Take a dollar bill or a similar size piece of paper and fold it into thirds, as shown in Figure 1. Do not press it flat. Attach two gem clips to the upper edges of the bill as shown, one holding the left end together with the center, and the other holding the right end together with the center.

For the magical linking, pull the ends of the bill apart in the direction of the arrows. The gem clips will hop off the bill and automatically link together.

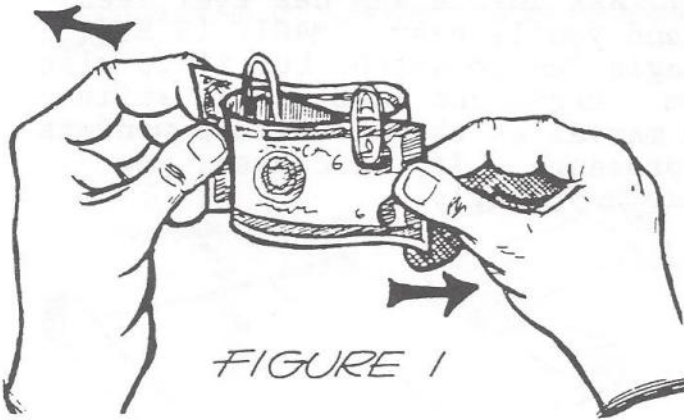


FIGURE 1

KNOT WITHOUT LETTING GO

As long as you have that three-foot piece of rope, here's another puzzler you can do. Untie the knot just created, then tell your friends you can tie a knot in the rope *without* letting go of either end. Sounds impossible, but it's not. Just lay the rope on a table as in Figure 44 and cross your arms. Then hold one end of the rope in each hand and simply uncross your arms. Presto! You'll have a knot, and you never let go of either end of the rope!

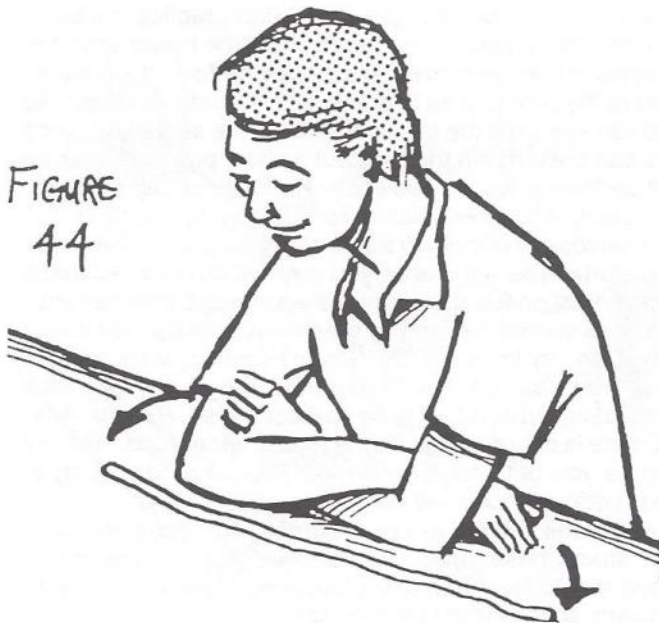


FIGURE 44

MAGICAL JUMPING RUBBER BAND

Amuse your friends by showing them a rubber band and wrapping it around your first two fingers, as shown in Figure 2. When you straighten out your hand, the rubber band magically hops over to your last two fingers.

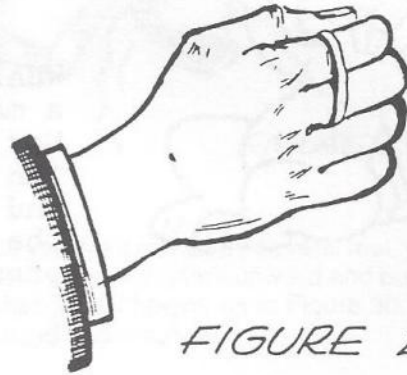


FIGURE 2

The secret lies in what your friends do not see. Unknown to your friends, you slip all four fingers under the rubber band from beneath, as illustrated in Figure 3. When you straighten out your fingers, the rubber band will automatically jump over to the last two fingers, as shown in Figure 4. If you repeat this process with the band starting on the last two fingers, it will hop back to the first two fingers.

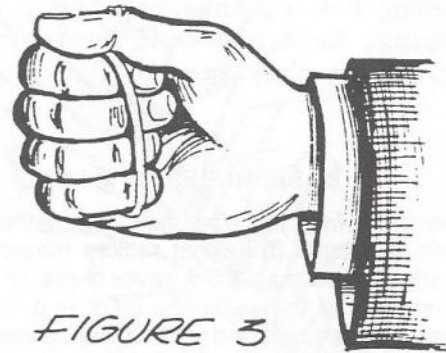


FIGURE 3

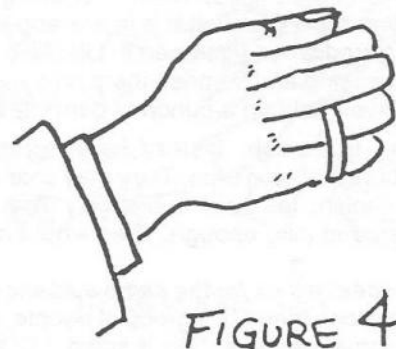


FIGURE 4

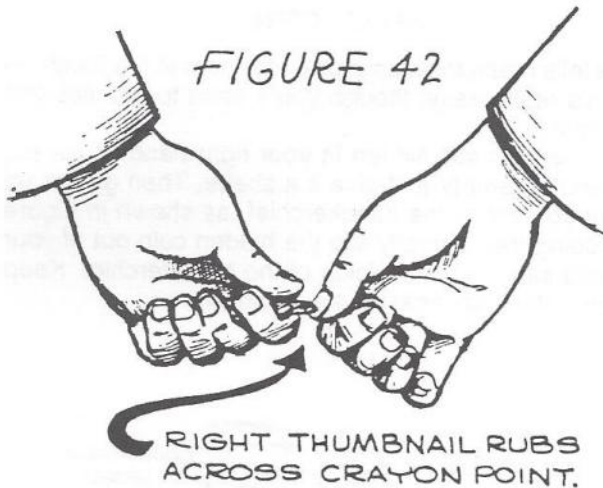
FEELING COLORS

"Different colors give off different amounts of heat," you tell your friends. "You can actually feel them and tell one from another. You don't believe me? I'll prove it!"

So you hand someone a box of crayons. Ask the person to remove one crayon while your back is turned and to hand you that crayon behind your back. Once the crayon is in your hands, turn to face your audience.

With the crayon behind you, rub the tip of it across your right thumbnail as in Figure 42. Bring the right hand out in front of you next, leaving the crayon in your left hand behind your back. Bring your right hand up to your forehead, but glance at your thumbnail as you do. Note what color is rubbed on the nail. That color is the color of the crayon, but don't let your audience see it.

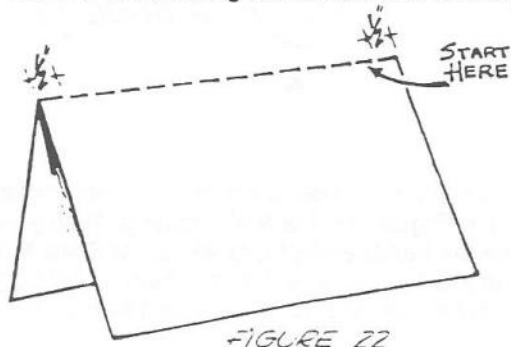
With your hand at your forehead, pretend to concentrate. Tell your audience that you are feeling the crayon's color with your left hand behind your back. After a moment of study, announce the correct color and return the crayon. At the earliest opportunity secretly rub the crayon off your thumbnail using a napkin or tissue.



WALKING THROUGH A PIECE OF PAPER

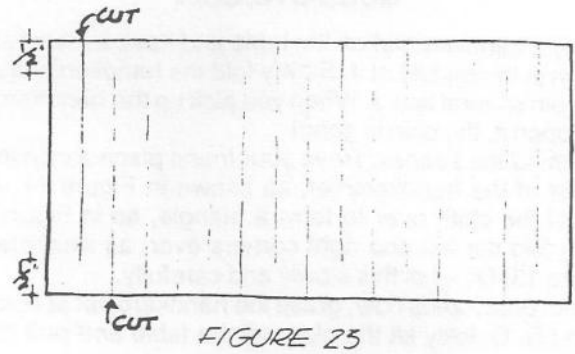
Hold up a sheet of paper and tell your friends. "I can walk right through this piece of paper!" Naturally, they won't believe you.

So to prove it, you fold the paper in half, as shown in Figure 22, and cut it along the dotted line with a pair of



scissors. Be sure you cut only the dotted line area. Do not cut the sides of the paper.

Next cut slits in the paper, as shown by the lines in Figure 23, being sure not to cut past the ends of lines.



When you have made all the cuts, open the paper as shown in Figure 24 and step through it; then pull it over your body and head.

"See," you tell everybody, "I really did walk through this piece of paper!"



GOOD-BYE, COIN

Lay a handkerchief on the table and have a friend place a coin in the middle of it. Slowly fold the handkerchief over the coin several times. When you pick up the handkerchief and open it, the coin is gone!

Behind the scenes: Have your friend place a coin in the center of the handkerchief, as shown in Figure 11. Fold half of the cloth over to form a triangle, as in Figure 12. Then fold the left and right corners over, as illustrated in Figure 13. Do all of this slowly and carefully.

With both hands now, grasp the handkerchief at corners A and B. Quickly lift the cloth off the table and pull these

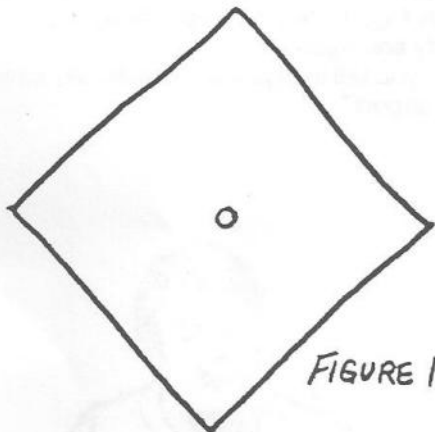


FIGURE 11

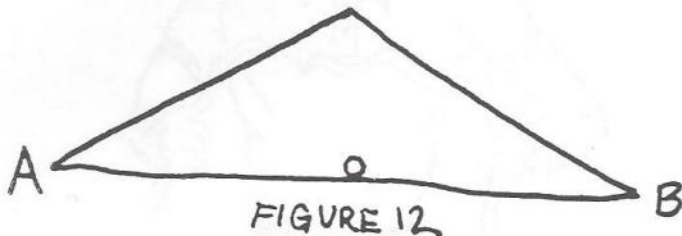


FIGURE 12

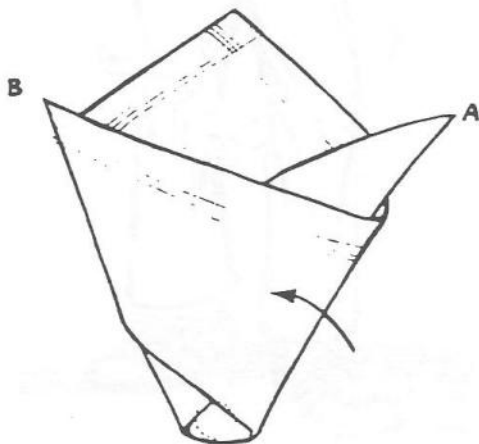


FIGURE 13

corners apart as far as they will go. See Figure 14. Immediately tilt the handkerchief slightly toward your right hand, which will cause the coin to slide downward inside the handkerchief and into your closed right hand. Once you have the coin secretly in your hand, open the handkerchief and show it empty.

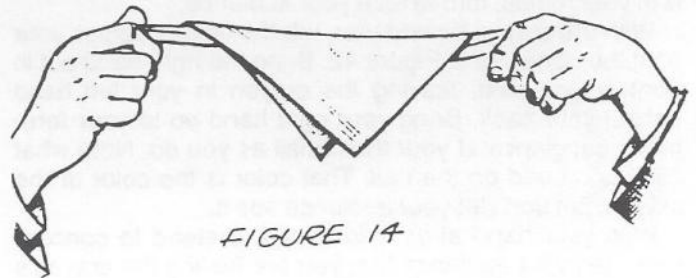


FIGURE 14

HELLO, COIN

Now let's make that same coin reappear in the handkerchief. It's really easy, though you'll need to practice this trick a little.

With the coin still hidden in your right hand, show the handkerchief empty and give it a shake. Then gather up the four corners of the handkerchief, as shown in Figure 15. In doing this, secretly slip the hidden coin out of your hand and into the *inside* folds of the handkerchief. Keep the coin in the folds near the top as shown.

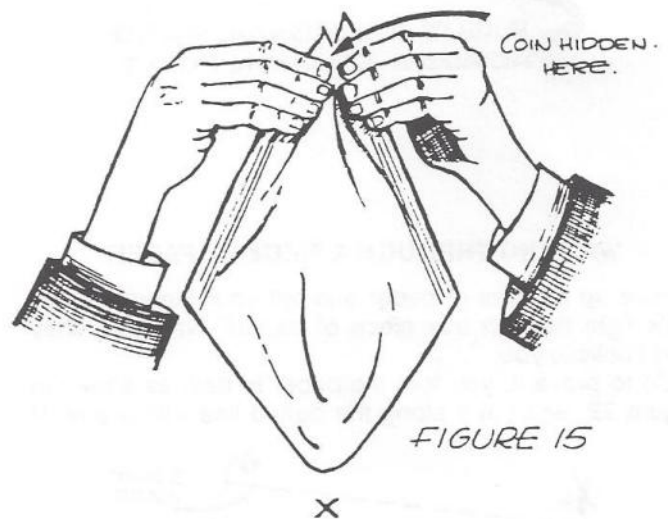


FIGURE 15

Now have your friend feel the bottom of the handkerchief at Point X in Figure 15. He feels nothing. With your free hand, give the handkerchief a quick tap at Point X. At the same time you tap, release the coin from its hiding place. The coin will instantly drop into the bag part of the handkerchief.

Have your friend feel again. Anything? Yes! Open the handkerchief and return his coin. It's magic!

PULLING OFF YOUR THUMB

I suppose I have entertained thousands of children with this simple trick, and they always want me to do it again! To your audience it appears that you simply slide your thumb right off your hand, a trick both mysterious and comical at the same time.

Here's how you do it: Hold your right hand, as in Figure 7. Bring your left hand over the right and cover it briefly. Bend your right thumb back and replace it with your left

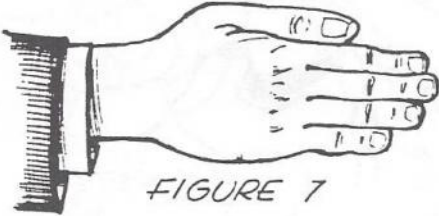


FIGURE 7

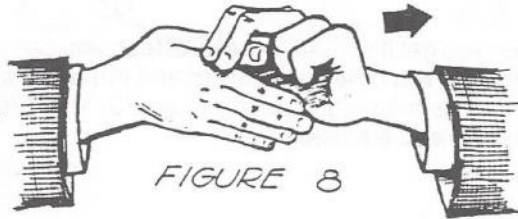


FIGURE 8

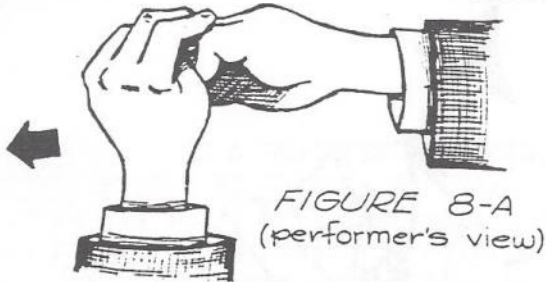


FIGURE 8-A
(performer's view)

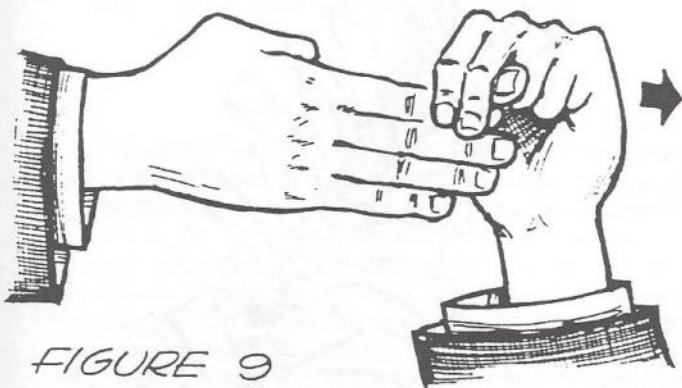


FIGURE 9

thumb, as in Figure 8. Slide your left hand out to the tips of the right fingers, as shown in Figure 9; leave it there a moment; then slide it back to the right thumb stub as though jamming the thumb back in place. Immediately open and separate your hands and wiggle your right thumb.

"That's my bionic thumb," you can say. "It's always coming apart like that!"

BOTTOMS-UP GLASSES

Stand three empty glasses on a table, as shown in Figure 32. Challenge a friend to pick up the glasses two at a time, turn them over three times, and the third time end with all three glasses *bottoms up*.

When your friend has trouble, you can demonstrate how it is done. All you do is turn over two glasses at a time as follows: (1) numbers 2 and 3, then (2) numbers 1 and 3, and (3) numbers 2 and 3.

Once your friend has seen the trick he will probably want to try it himself. For some extra fun, re-set the glasses for him to try, but set them as shown in Figure 33, which makes it absolutely impossible to end bottoms up.



FIGURE 32

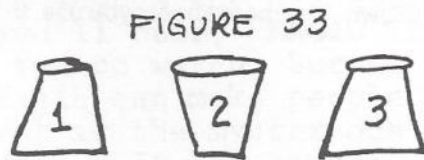


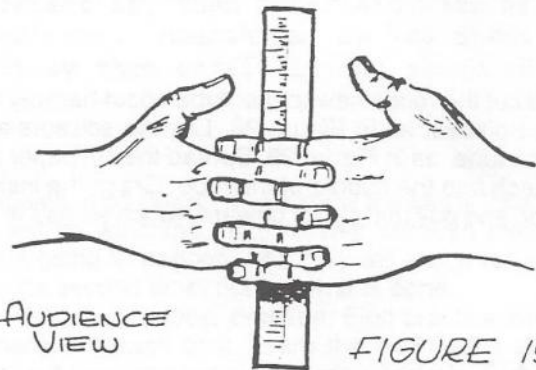
FIGURE 33

MAGNETIC RULER

Pick up a wooden ruler (or a long pencil) and suggest to your audience that it has magnetic powers.

"For instance," you explain, "if I lace my fingers together and place them over the ruler and concentrate, the ruler will actually cling to my hands."

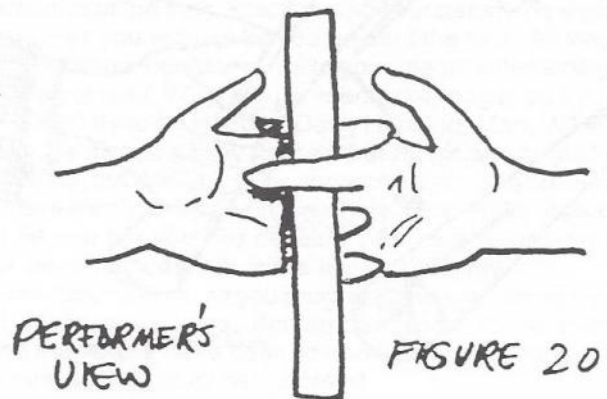
You raise your hands with the ruler behind them, your thumbs out of sight. Your audience will probably laugh because they think your thumbs are holding the ruler. Slowly bring your thumbs into view, as shown in Figure 19, to prove them wrong.



AUDIENCE
VIEW

FIGURE 19

Behind the scenes: Unknown to your audience, you laced only seven fingers together, leaving your right hand second finger hidden. See Figure 20. That finger actually holds the ruler or pencil in place.



PERFORMER'S
VIEW

FIGURE 20

THE NEWSPAPER TREE

Here is an oldie-but-goodie that is still used by professional magicians. But it's easy enough to do for fun.

In performance, the magician rolls several newspapers together and cuts them here and there with a pair of scissors. Suddenly he begins pulling the paper apart and upward, resulting in a tree of newspaper several feet tall.

I have seen magicians perform this on stage and make newspaper trees as high as 15 feet!

Behind the scenes: Lay several sheets of newspaper on the floor so they overlap, as in Figure 27. Roll them together as shown. The more sheets you use, the taller the tree will be.

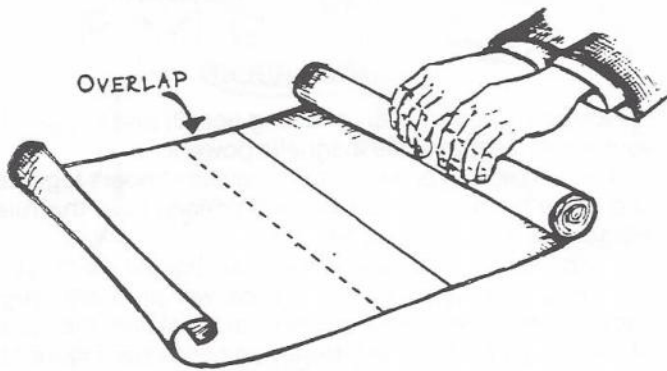


FIGURE 27

Next cut the rolled newspaper tube about halfway down in three places, as in Figure 28. Lay the scissors aside. Hold the tube, as in Figure 29. Spread the cut paper aside and reach into the middle of the tube. Grasp the inside of the tube and pull that paper upward, which starts the tree.

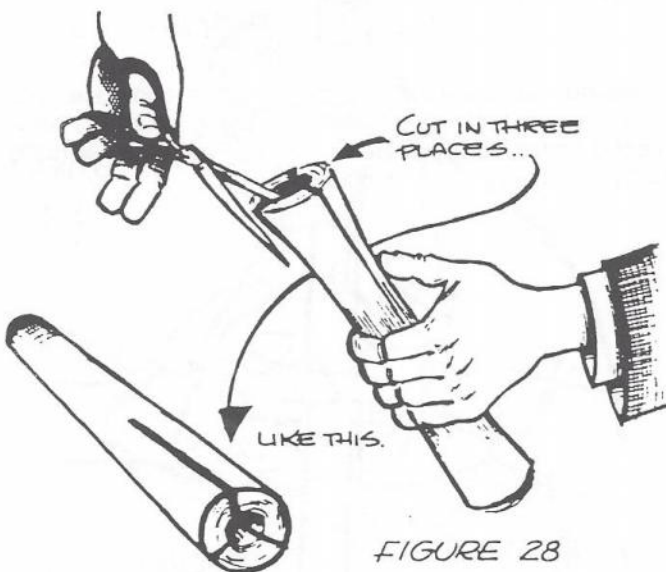


FIGURE 28



FIGURE 29

Once you get it started by several feet, you can use your free hand to work the tree upward and out of the tube until it reaches its full height, as in Figure 30. Your friends will be amazed and amused!

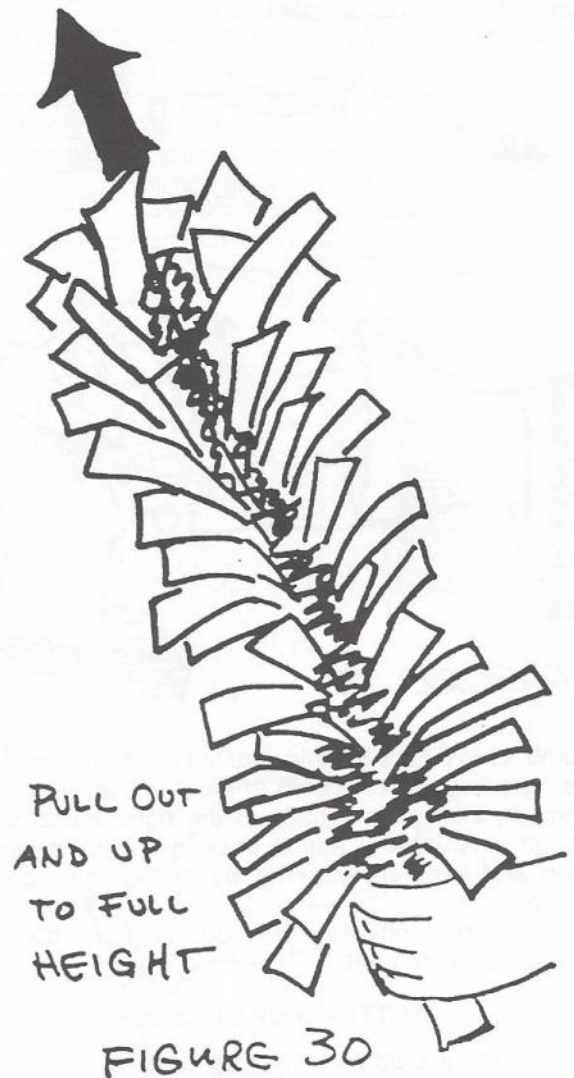


FIGURE 30



Thanks again for purchasing one of my magic kits! Your business is very much appreciated!

I would like to invite you to share a photo of yourself or your young magician performing one of the tricks in your kit. You can post this on the Amazon sales page where your kit was purchased. Just look beneath the photo of the magic kit where it says, “Share your own customer images”.

I would love to see some photos showcasing our young magicians!

Jim