

Jim's Favorite Thumb Tip Routine

I would like to teach you one of my favorite effects with a thumb tip which is found in your magic kit. This one is called Bobo's Ethereal Silk. It's basically a vanishing silk routine but it has some subtleties that set it apart from what you normally see when you watch a magician vanish a silk. More often than not, you will see the magician come out with a silk in one hand and a thumb tip on the other. The thumb tip goes into his closed fist, he pushes the silk down into his fist, the silk vanishes, and he's done.

In this version, a thumb tip is used but it's practically impossible to ever see it and you are totally 'clean' before, during, and after the routine. There is a logical reason for every move you make and the result is true magic!

This is a trick you can carry in your pocket and use to impress people you meet, perform as a close up trick, a stage effect, or in a birthday party. I believe this is a routine that will quickly become one of your favorites.

Before beginning the trick, wrap a small piece of manila type paper (a piece cut from a filing folder works well) around your thumb tip and place a rubber band around the outside to hold it in place. Place the silk you are using into the thumb tip and place everything in your pocket (or Magic Box if you made one from the PDF you received with your first email). I use a 'diamond' cut silk as pictured below as it fits in the thumb tip easier and appears larger than it actually is. These are available through magic dealers. You can also take the silk you received in your kit and cut it into two triangle shaped pieces if you wish using a razor blade and a straight edge. This will make the silk easier to use and it still looks just as large coming out of the thumb tip. These will eventually fray but will make the trick easier to perform. Once you do this, you are ready to perform. I probably use a cut triangle silk more than the diamond silk if truth be told. Try it first with the square silk that came with the kit. This is how most folks do it.

The routine below is an example of presenting the trick to a group of children.



Introduction

"Let's see who's sitting quietly and raising their hand so we can pick our next helper" you say. "I need someone who can keep a secret because whoever helps with this next trick is going to see how I do it and I wouldn't want you to tell anyone. So, is there anyone here who can keep a secret?"

"How about you?" you say as you point to one of the children. "You're sitting very quietly and doing a great job of raising your hand. Let's give this young man a hand as he comes up front."

"Hi, what's your name?" you ask as the helper arrives on stage.

"Aaron" he replies.

"Aaron, it's nice to meet you. I'm Mr. Magic. Now Aaron, you said you can keep a secret. That's very important since you're going to see how the trick is done. So do you promise not to tell anyone how we do the trick?"

"Yes" replies Aaron.

"Great!" you say. "Now, in order for Aaron to see how the trick is done I'm going to let him wear my special x-ray vision glasses. With these glasses, he will be able to see exactly what is happening. He'll

be just like Superman!" Reach into your magic can, remove the glasses, and place them on Aaron.

"Now that Aaron is wearing the x-ray vision glasses, he will be able to see exactly how the trick works." Reach into the magic can, insert your thumb into the thumb tip inside the paper holder and bring it into view.

"Aaron, I've got a little piece of paper here with a rubber band around it. I want you to hold the rubber band in your left hand (roll the rubber band off and give it to him to hold as you insert your thumb into the thumb tip) and this piece of paper in your other hand." After you hand Aaron the rubber band, unroll the paper keeping the thumb tip hidden behind, show both sides and then hand the paper to Aaron.



"Now, boys and girls, since Aaron is wearing the x-ray vision glasses, he can see this handkerchief floating in the air, but you can't see it because it's invisible (use your non thumb tip hand to point to where the handkerchief is floating). But I'm going to make it visible so that you can see it too, just like Aaron. Watch."

"I'm going to reach up in the air, grab the handkerchief, and make it visible so that you can see it just like Aaron and me." With your non thumb tip hand, reach into the air where the handkerchief is supposedly hanging, grab it, and bring it down to your other hand and place your hand around the thumb tip while removing your thumb and begin pulling the silk out of the thumb tip.



Once the silk is out of the thumb tip, drag the silk through your other hand inserting your middle finger into the thumb tip as you pull the silk through. This enables you to show this hand empty.



"Here, let me show you how we did this. You just take the handkerchief poke it into your hand and it gets smaller and smaller and finally, it just disappears." After pulling the handkerchief through your hand and showing it empty, you place the thumb tip back in the hand under cover of the handkerchief and begin pushing the silk back into the thumb tip. Once the silk is in, pull your hand and thumb tip away while lifting the other hand back up into the air where the handkerchief was originally floating invisibly. Rub your fingers and thumb together pretending that you are vanishing the last of the handkerchief as you say the words ". . . and finally, it just disappears."



"And then" you say, "you take this piece of paper and roll it into a ball (as you say this take the paper from the helper and wrap it around the thumb tip) and the handkerchief just comes back!" Begin pulling the silk out of the tube but don't pull it all the way.



As you begin pushing the silk back into the tube, say "You're probably wondering how we did this but I think you just imagined the whole thing!" As you make this last statement, unroll the paper showing that nothing is there. Take the rubber band from Aaron and place it back around the tube.



"Aaron, you're not going to tell anyone how we did this, are you?" Since he has absolutely no idea, his answer will most likely be, "No.".

"In that case, Aaron definitely gets a Magician's Helper's Certificate. And boys and girls, after the show is over today, don't be asking Aaron how we did this trick because he's not going to tell! Let's give Aaron a great big hand for keeping this secret and for helping us do some real magic."

Summary

This is one of my favorite routines that I do in every show and carry in my pocket if I want to impress someone. If you're performing it for just a few people, you would leave out the glasses part and start with something like, "Did you notice there's something invisible floating in the air? Well, you can't see it because it's invisible but I'm going to catch it and make it visible so you can see it too. Watch!" You then take the tube out of your pocket as proceed as outlined above.

If you look at the Welcome Letter that came with your magic kit, you will see a video link of me performing this trick at a birthday party. I also perform it on stage and in close up situations. In my opinion, if you want to impress someone with your skill as a magician, this is the trick to use!

There are lots of other great tricks that can be done with a thumb tip as outlined in your kit but if you want the one that hardly any other magicians do and that people will not have seen, then learn this one!! You'll be glad you did!