

Secret Twitter

by
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Day 01 - November 1

On Practice 1 - Overweight

Add a dozen cards to your deck and practice with that.



Day 03 - November 3

Out For Failed Force 1

Control the «wrong» card to the top and glimpse it. Then say, «I must admit that I saw your card when you put it back into the deck.

It was the XY, wasn't it?» Repeat the force.

(Robert-Houdin, Comment on Devient Sorcier, p. 141)



Day 07 - November 7

On Practice 3

Instrument, not Prop

Take a deck of cards and do a trick. - Do it now.

Now that you have done that, look at the same deck and imagine it was a Stradivarius.

Do the same trick again. The prop now becomes an instrument.

Repeat with another «prop» (coins, rope, cups & balls etc.) and another trick.



Day 08 - November 8

Teasing Opening Line

«Who are you going to believe, me or your own eyes?»

(Groucho Marx)



Day 16 - November 16

Sidewinder

Rather than second dealing a card directly, take it first to the side of the deck, and only then deal it straight to the table, or spin/sail deal it. The different timing of first taking the card and then dealing it with a slight delay covers the Second Deal better. (Jack McMillen)

Day 21 - November 21

Torcedores

Cuban cigar makers are among the most cultivated and informed people in Cuba. The reason is that traditionally there is one person who will either read out loud from the daily newspaper or from a classic of literature while the others are rolling the cigars. What a wonderful idea! Application to magic: Tell a story which has seemingly nothing to do with the procedure of the performance piece you are doing, but at some time the two threads converge and what you said and did falls into place. What more does the «torcedores» way suggest to you?

Day 24 - November 24

Cartomancy Lecture Cull

As you explain the meaning of certain cards take them out and place them face up on the table in a packet. You can in this way do a little lecture on cartomancy and at the same time cull and stack about a dozen cards.

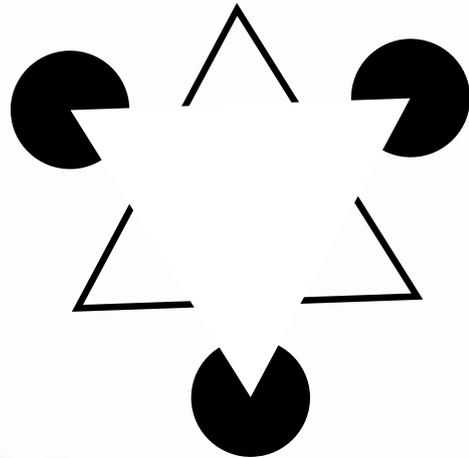
As you place specific cards on the table openly, you can cull secretly a lot more cards from the rest of the deck...

Day 31 - December 1

Seeing the Invisible

Can you see the white triangle?
Yes? It does not exist... You can
therefore see something, which is
not.

Come up with a
magic trick of
which this image is
the visualization.



Day 41 - December 11

The Tom & Jerry Force

Good to force one of two decks (or any two objects) - once. «These two decks have names. One is Tom, and the other is Jerry. Do you prefer Tom or Jerry?» «Tom.» «OK, that's this one!» Give him the deck you want to force. (Karrell Fox)

Day 45 - December 15

Knotty Hank

Tying a knot into a handkerchief is an old ploy to help remember things. Can you come up with a piece where you tie a knot maybe in some or all of the corners?



Day 57 - December 27

To Act Or Not To Act

«You have to bring yourself in, in some way, otherwise it's just text.»

(Klaus-Maria Brandauer on acting)



Day 75 - January 14

A Case for a Book

Display a book. Saying something about its author and content will be an excellent icebreaker. Open the book, and it turns out to be hollow, a box containing one or several props. What's in the box and what will you do with its content?

A small book might contain a single performance piece, a large book a whole act.



Day 97 - February 5

Wedge Break Bottom Palm

Spread deck between hands, eye count bottom 4 cards, and as spread is closed, right little finger obtains Wedge Break above them. While deck is momentarily held by right hand - thumb on top, fingers on face - left hand gestures. As left hand comes back and takes deck into Dealing Position, bottom palm is executed thusly: right hand turns back up to take deck in End Grip - in the action broken packet is turned anti-clockwise into left hand Classic Palm, pivoting on left forefinger. Palm may also be executed immediately after the spread is closed.

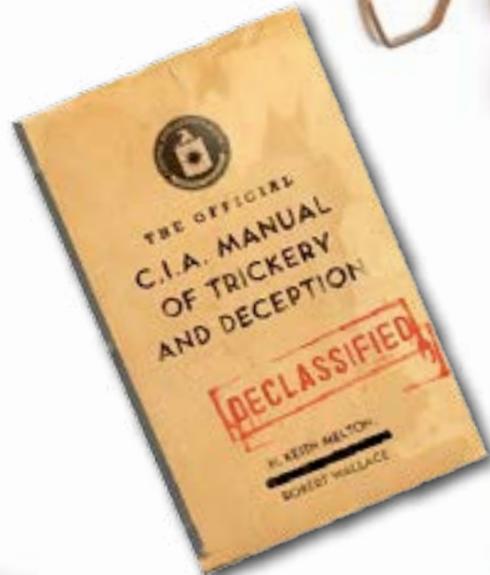
(Larry Jennings)

Day 103 - February 11

Curious Book

H. Keith Melton and Robert
Wallace,

The Official CIA
Manual of
Trickery And
Deception



Day 111 - February 19

Card to Pocket Ruse

Card is palmed in your right or left hand. Before taking card out from one of inner breast pockets, both hands lightly pat the chest from the outside, and only then does palming hand reach into pocket to produce the card, or do a transfer inside the jacket. Jimmy Grippo used this ploy with much success.

Day 120 - February 28

Philosophical

Ascanio and I were once talking about the difference between a magician and other artists. He said to me, «An architect builds a house and can then forget about it - he moves on to his next project. A magician, on the other hand, is like a gardener who must constantly take care of his plants. He has to take care of each trick and technique so it gets better and better.»

Day 136 - March 16

Schools of Thought

In painting we distinguish between naturalism, realism, impressionism and a large etceterisms.

Looking at magic, would you be able to identify different «schools of thought»? How would you define the relative philosophies? And which magicians would be their major exponents?

Day 149 - March 29

On improvement 1
«Good is better
than original.»
(Paul Arden)



Day 151 - March 31

On improvement 3

«Striving to better,
oft we mar
what's well.»

(Shakespeare,
King Lear,
act 1 scene 4)



Day 158 - April 7

On the Barnhart Fan Steal

Take a look at «The Barnhart Fan Steal» from «Marlo in Spades». Instead of using the Classic Palm try taking the card in Flat Palm as you tap the card into the fan. Now the right hand carries along the card as it moves to the fan's left side to close it clockwise, thereby disengaging the card from the fan and depositing it on top of the deck.

Day 197 - May 16

Extended Elmsley Count

Instead of doing the Elmsley Count with just 4 cards and hiding 1, do it with a small packet of cards, hiding several cards, thus fulfilling the same function as a Hamman Count or the Veaser Concept. Try with Jordan Count dynamics, too.

Day 206 - May 25

Impromptu False Pocket

To show a trousers pocket apparently empty, have an unfolded handkerchief in the pocket and pull out its center - it looks as if the pocket's linen had been pulled out.

Day 211 - May 30

Immodesty 2

«People used to say I'm arrogant.
Today I'm perfect.»

