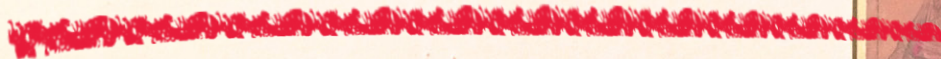


The  
Magic Advent Calendar  
of Good Ideas



by Roberto Giobbi







1.

Next time you get together with your magic buddies, do not start off the session by showing your latest sleight, but perform a complete trick for them; do so as if they were laypeople.



2.

Back home check your deck to see if it is complete and that there are no signed or otherwise "contaminated" cards. Cut the Ace of Spades to the face, and then insert the deck into the card case, so that when you afterwards extract it you'll see the Ace of Spades; this tells you that your deck is ready to perform.



3.

Never interrupt  
someone who is  
praising you.





4.

When you do an unsatisfying show, ask yourself what you could improve next time. When you do a satisfying show, remember it. Know the difference between the two.



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5.

In magic, most do  
not practice enough...  
To work hard can be  
very satisfying.





6.

Invite one or two magic friends over for a Magic Tea Time, a Magic Coffee, or a Magic Dinner. Meeting face-to-face like-minded people brings happiness.





7.

Next time you want  
to buy a "trick",  
don't, instead buy  
a magic book.







Color Changing Deck Rationale:  
Take a red-backed deck out of  
a blue card case. Now you have  
a reason to change the back  
color of the deck. Always ask:  
What is the reason for this  
effect to happen?



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9.

Whenever you perform a trick, precede it with a Prologue, and end it with an Epilogue. (Do a very good effect in-between...)





10.

Stand in front of your library,  
close your eyes, take out one  
book. Read it again, or just a  
few items.

If you can't find anything  
interesting, give it away,  
and buy another one.





11.

When you execute  
a sleight,  
breath out.





12.

Keep a journal where you write down three things you did well on that day, and why. Do this for a complete month, for every day.





13.

Anytime you need to look through a deck of cards, you might say, "I'm going to take out the Jokers - because this is serious card magic."





14.

As the first magic activity of the day, before watching YouTube or practicing a sleight, start out by taking the instrument (cards, coins, etc.) and run through a trick from A to Z, as if really performing it. In only one month you'll be a better magician.





15.

If you take three cards from a deck, some sleights can be executed with more ease.

Few people can say that a deck is short if only three cards are missing.





16.

Next time you want  
to buy a "trick",  
don't, instead buy  
a magic book.





17.

When you have a card palmed in your left hand, and want to turn the deck end-over-end, seize the deck at its inner end and turn it outward, rather than at the outer end and inward; pronating rather than supinating the left hand protects the palmed cards and makes the hand look natural.



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18.

When about to spend money on something, do not look at the price, but at the price difference of the more expensive (and possibly better item) and the item you would buy anyway.





19.

Go to the next meeting  
of your magic club, or  
one near you, or attend  
a small convention.  
Put the date now into  
your calendar.





20.

Assume you need to quickly locate a specific card by sight. Before looking at the cards, form a mental image of the index. Now ribbon spread the deck, or spread it between the hands, or form a two-handed fan. Do this slowly.





21.

For the coming year,  
subscribe to at  
least one magic  
magazine.





22.

If a performer asks you what you thought of their performance, say something positive, because that's what they want to hear. If they ask a second time, repeat, as they seek confirmation. The few who ask a third time, really want your feedback: Give them constructive feedback to the best of your knowledge.



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23.

Spend as much of a day as you can with activities you enjoy, and then do them as well as you can. Concentrate on what you do, and each time try to do it a little better. For a little better is much better.





24.

When trying to come up with an "original" presentation, take care not to destroy the inherent beauty of the effect, especially when dealing with a classic. Remember: "Good is better than original."

