



Highlights



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What would you do?

You're at your local magic club meeting and a friend of yours gets up and does a new trick, which quite frankly is pretty awful! He clearly loves it and afterwards he asks what you thought of it.

What do you do?

If you tell him that you didn't like it, which is the truth, he may get upset or even angry, but really it's what he needs to hear. However, for the sake of your friendship you might think it's better to fudge it and not answer too honestly.

TrickClip Showcase

Spin Out



Some people say that you should always start a performance with a group or table with a quick piece of visual magic. While under certain circumstances I can see that this might be helpful to get attention, I prefer normally to 'talk' my way in.

This card routine enables me to spend the first 2-3 minutes talking to and interacting with the spectators in a fun way, and then ends with a double climax, the first being when I apparently read a spectator's mind and reveal their chosen card, and then the second when I throw the sealed deck up into the air and instantly their card appears outside the box at my fingertips.

To perform this you just need your regular deck. The flash appearance of the chosen card outside the box takes a little practice, but it is totally worth the effort for the strong impact that it makes.

£7.00

E-Club Pro - your monthly magical fix!

Safety Catch



This is a sort of ring and rope idea but instead of using a ring, it uses a borrowed watch. A piece of rope is examined and the ends tied so that the rope is in a loop. A borrowed watch, with the strap done up, is threaded over the loop and as it is moved up and down, the watch is suddenly seen to be linked inside the rope loop, and the rope ends have to be untied in order to remove the watch. This can be repeated, and works in walkabout or at tables. You will need to practise the move to get it smooth, but it looks visually very magical. Comes as a Premier E-Routine with additional online instruction footage. **£10.00**

Gnashers



Over the years I have had so much fun with this feature children's routine. All you need are a few silks, a change bag and a large pair of wind up chattering teeth, and you are in business! The plot is simple. One

of three different hankies tied in a line is chosen and the silks put into the bag. A 'ferocious' pair of chattering teeth are lowered into the bag in order to untie the chosen hanky. They succeed, but also unfortunately chew large holes in the silk. The magician uses his powers to restore the silk to bring everything to a satisfactory conclusion. Easy to do, with loads of fun mingled in, this is a great kid show routine. Comes as downloadable E-Routine written instructions.

£7.00

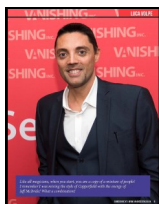
Forever Flapping Plus



This unusual E-Book contains the construction details of 9 individual fake envelopes as well as many routines using them. It also has several more envelope routines too thus providing a comprehensive book covering all things envelope related! The magic covers close up, mentalism, stand up and even children's work, and you will be amazed at the amount that can be achieved by the judicious use of a cleverly faked envelope. This title is one of my all time biggest sellers, and there is not really anything else quite like it. **£20.00**

Magicseen

Here are some highlights from the latest issue



Luca Volpe

We have featured this suave Italian mentalist in Magicseen before, but this is the first time he has had the prestigious cover spot. We not only find out more about him and his work, but he also passes on some great advice for other budding mind readers.

Dealer's Booth—Copeland Coins

Every so often we feature a magic dealer in order to give our readers the chance to get to know the people behind the businesses. I met Jeff in the US earlier this year, and this article gives details of his fledgling coin magic enterprise which I think is set to do very well.



Unaccustomed As I Am...

Jez Rose is a consummate public speaker and most of his income derives from using his skills at business events to help put across company information. In this fascinating article he explains what goes into this type of work and the sort of skills that are required to succeed with it.

Magicseen Issue 81 (July 18) is available now from www.magicseen.co.uk

E-Club Pro - get personal help and advice with your magic

Chatter

The Mark Leveridge Blog

I might be old fashioned, but I do prefer magic that has a context or a framework for the impossible event that is happening. For me, a visual piece of magic eye candy is nice, but ultimately less satisfying than an effect which builds through presentation to a satisfying magical conclusion.

Magic is, of course, totally illogical. Most effects that we create have little foundation in reality, and it is that very fact that makes it interesting. If magic was no more surprising or interesting than using a remote to 'invisibly' turn on a TV, then it wouldn't be something that anyone would be prepared to pay to witness.

But nevertheless, magic that happens for no plausible rhyme or reason, to my mind does lack something. I like it when magic is put into a context, however implausible, to justify the illusion. Visibly changing a pile of blank paper into bank notes is good, but if you can create, through plot or presentation, a reason why the paper needs to change to money, that to me makes for a better trick.

I have always been someone who tries to create patter for a trick that justifies the action. For instance, in my effect Keyed In, pictures of keys appear on blank playing cards not just because I can make it happen, but because I patter about how in the future people will have house 'key cards' rather than metal keys, and they will be able to create house keys to give to their friends and family themselves.

Although the explanation seems a little far fetched, the fact that hotels already use plastic cards as door keys makes it seem possible that in the future we may use similar key cards for our front doors too. So

it is a reason, however unlikely, for why you might need to make keys appear on cards. Without this justification, the trick would lack any sort of logic, perverse or otherwise.

Although I am not suggesting that literally every tick has to be explained away, I must admit the vast majority of my tricks do begin with phrases such as, "Have you ever noticed that...", or "Have you ever wondered why..." or "Have you seen the latest...", all of which then lead me to patter into the magic effect itself.

The value, to my mind, of setting some sort of context is to enable the spectators to relate to what they are about to see. If I start a trick by explaining that I am going to show them a way to overcome a common problem which many of them will perhaps have experienced, I feel it gives the spectators some sort of tenuous connection to what they are about to see, and therefore hopefully makes the magic appear more relevant to them and their lives.

Another patter premise that I use is to start by saying, "When people find out I'm a magician, they tend to say..." and then I illustrate what people normally ask through the magic trick. So, for example, I use, "When people find out I'm a magician, they tend to say, 'Can you make me some money?' Because that would be a brilliant way to use magical skills, wouldn't it? Well, I can. Let me show you." And I then go into a routine in which coins appear.

Now, I could just walk up and start producing coins, but by prefacing the effect with the right patter, there's now a 'reason' for why I am doing it.