

EI-5165
Ages 6+
Grades 1+

Magic Show!

Amazingly Easy Magic Tricks for Children



Magic School Textbook



Begin
magic school
here!



WARNING:

CHOKING HAZARD—Small parts.
Not for children under three (3) years.

Educational
Insights®



Welcome to the Magic Show!

You have just entered the exciting, magical world of illusion. Spend some time studying steps 1-5 to understand how this book works. Then turn the page to begin your magic schooling. Soon, everyone will be yelling, "How did you do that?"

Becoming a Magician

1 Become familiar with your props.

Here are the magical items included in this kit. Study the pictures and their names below. If you are learning a trick and do not know what an item is, refer back to these pictures.



Gather additional materials.

This kit contains most of the equipment required to perform the activities described. In addition, you will need a handkerchief (or you can substitute a paper towel, bandana, napkin, or washcloth), extra rubber bands, and coins. Your first magic school homework assignment is to gather these items.



2 Choose a trick to perform.

The number of stars next to the title of each trick indicates how easy a trick is to learn and perform. Start with the ★ tricks. They are easy to learn and do not require much practice. The ★★ tricks are easy, but require more practice. The ★★★ tricks require more time to learn and some more practice to get the illusion just right. Study the diagram below to understand the format for the tricks.

The Floating Wand ★

Grasp the wand in your left hand and with your right hand grip the left hand wrist, using the right index finger to hold the wand firmly in position. Tell your audience that to execute this trick you need a very steady hand and for this reason you are holding your wrist with your right hand. Announce that you are going to magnetize your hand. Then, secretly press your index finger against the wand. The wand is now supported, and when you straighten your fingers it will appear to float. Move your hands to make the illusion still more effective.

Level: ★ Amazingly easy
★★ Easy with practice
★★★ Challenging, but real showstoppers

Written Instructions

Materials needed

Preparation

How to perform the trick

3 Practice your tricks.

Before the day of your big performance, practice, practice, practice! Memorize the tricks you plan to perform. You don't want to be looking at this guide during your show. It's a good idea to practice in front of a mirror, too. If you plan to perform in front of a large audience, first practice in front of your family and friends at home.

4 Set the stage.

As a magician, your appearance is important. Wear a fun costume – perhaps the classic tuxedo with white gloves and a top hat or a fancy dress. Long sleeves, for hiding things in, are always a good idea. It's also helpful to wear a dark-colored shirt and pants or a skirt with pockets. Playing music during your show helps to disguise noises. Find a table for displaying your props and cover it with an eye-catching tablecloth. Remember that magic is about illusion, so how things look is as important as what you do.

5 Put on a magic show.

After all this preparation, it's time to display your talents. Decide on your audience – your friends, family, the school talent show, a local seniors' home – be creative! Almost everyone loves to watch a magician.



Finally, don't forget to get your audience involved during the performance. People like to draw cards, produce coins, or even answer questions. This makes them feel in control and part of the show. When you involve the audience, they will be all the more surprised when you pull a trick on them!

Begin your magic schooling now.
Hocus Pocus...you're a magician!

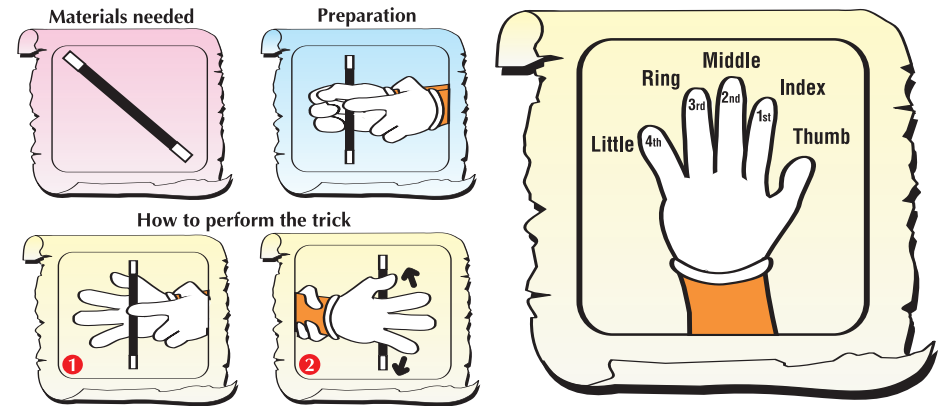


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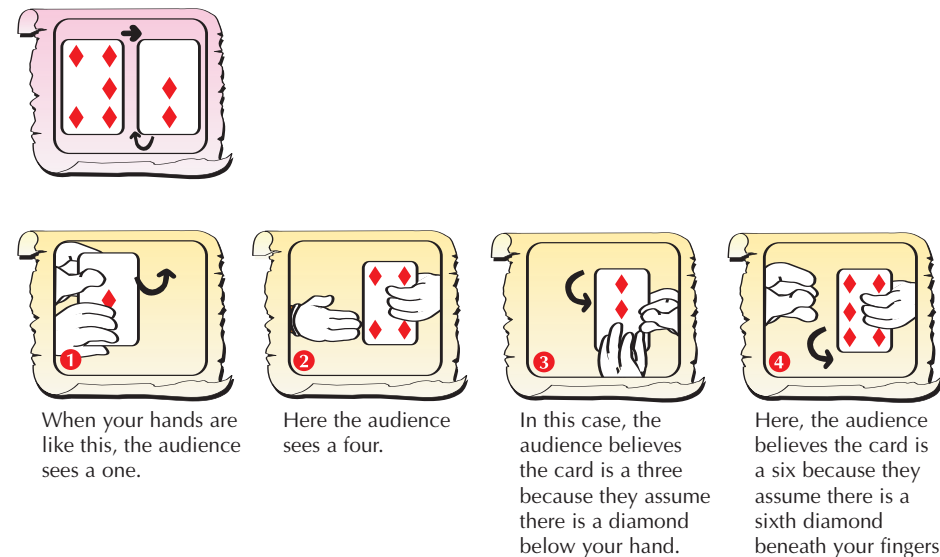
The Floating Wand

Grasp the wand in your left hand and grip your left wrist with your right hand. Tell your audience that to execute this trick you need a very steady hand and for this reason you are holding your wrist with your right hand. Announce that you are going to magnetize your hand. Then, secretly press your right-hand index finger against the wand. The wand is now supported, and when you straighten your fingers it will appear to float. Move your hands to make the illusion even more effective.



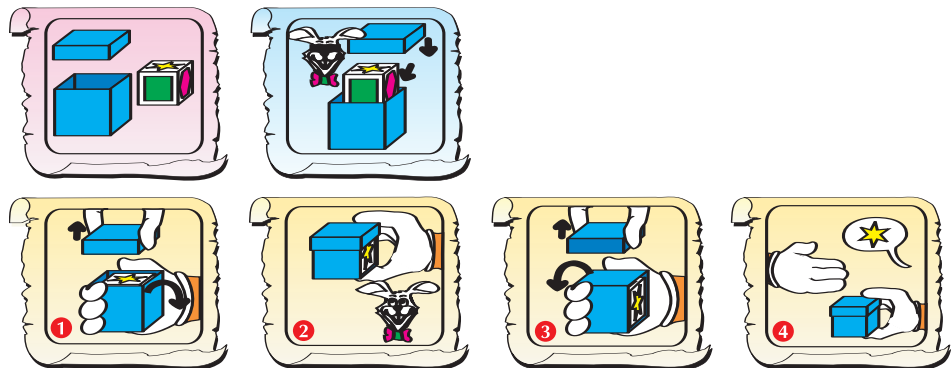
The Magic Card

Hold up the trick card with the diamonds on it and say, "This is a magic card. On one side it has a one and on the other side a four, but sometimes it has a three on one side and on the other side a six!" The trick depends on how you hold the card. (Study the figures below.) Learn to change hands and grip smoothly as you turn the card over. Do the trick once through quickly for the audience and then put the card away before they can examine it.



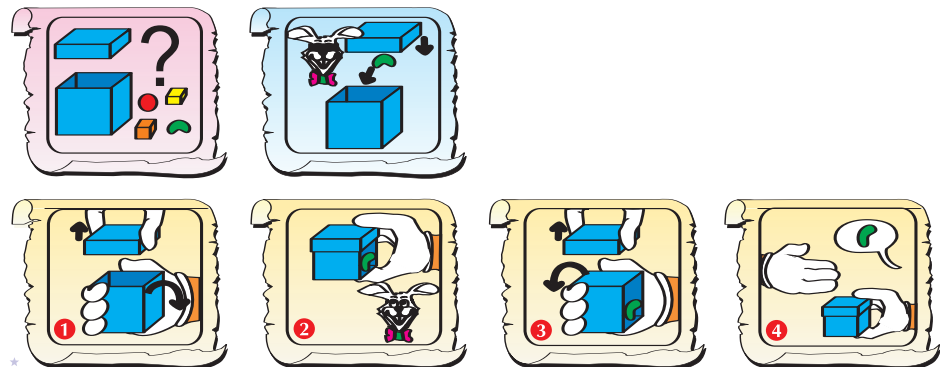
X-Ray Vision

Take the blue trick box with the lid and the illustrated die with different colors and shapes on the sides. Ask a member of the audience to choose one of the colors on the die without telling you which one. Place the die with the chosen color face up inside the box and put on the lid while you are looking in another direction. Then say you are going to guess the color chosen. Place the closed box behind your back and, as indicated in the figures, quickly take off the lid and place it on the side panel of the box. Take the box from behind your back and show the end with the lid on to the audience with the open part towards you (so that you can see the chosen color while the audience thinks the box is still intact). Put the box behind your back again and replace the lid in its original position over the die. Bring the box in view of the audience again so they can see it is still closed and tell them the chosen color.



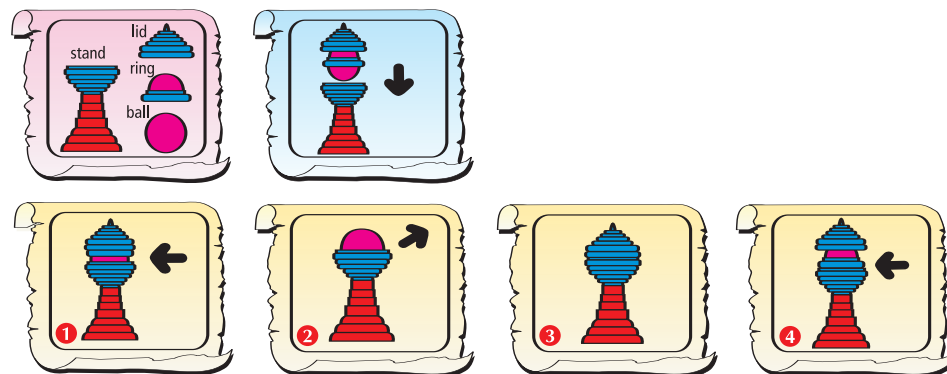
A Mysterious Guess

The procedure for this trick is similar to X-Ray Vision above. Taking the blue trick box with the lid, ask a member of the audience to choose a small object, such as a ring, that will fit in the box. Instruct them to put the lid on the box while you are looking in another direction. Tell the audience you are going to guess the object chosen. Place the closed box behind your back and quickly take off the lid and place it on the side panel of the box. Take the box from behind your back and show the end with the lid on to the audience with the open part facing toward you. You can see the chosen object while the audience thinks the box is still intact. Now put the box behind your back and close it completely. Bring the closed box into the view of the audience again and tell them the chosen object.



The Magic Ball Vase

Take the 4-part magic ball vase and put the four parts together (see blue figure below). Now, take the lid and ring off together (figure 1) and show the ball to the audience. Take the ball out, and put it in your pocket, then close the ball-stand (figures 2 and 3). Lift up the two upper parts in one move and show the empty ball-stand. Make a magic movement, say "Abracadabra," and take off the top. This time, only take off the lid. Reveal that the ball magically escaped from your pocket to the ball stand.



The Magic Vase Continued

After you have done the above trick, you can put the lid back on, say some more magic words, lift both sections again, and it will look like the ball has disappeared. Then remove the real ball from your pocket!

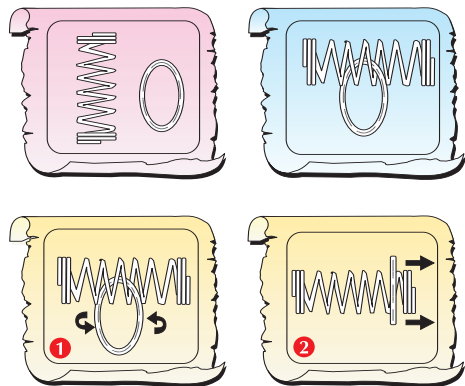


Remove the real ball from your pocket.

The Ring and the Spring

★

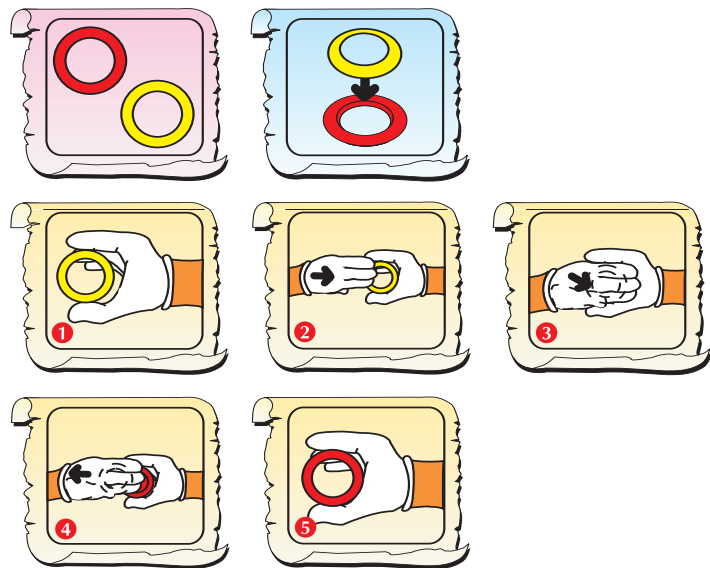
Before you start this trick, push the spring through the metal ring and let the ring drop onto the middle. Give the ring a sharp twist to the right until you feel it click into position. To perform the trick, ask an audience member to remove the ring from the spring in under five seconds...it's impossible. Take it back, give it a secret twist in the opposite direction, and simply slide the ring off the spring.



The Color-Changing Ring

★

For this trick, take the small red ring and the yellow half-shell ring that fits over the top. Hold them both together in your left hand, between your finger and thumb, so that it looks like you are just holding a yellow ring. Now move your right hand over the top and secretly remove the yellow half-shell ring leaving the whole red ring behind...it changed color!

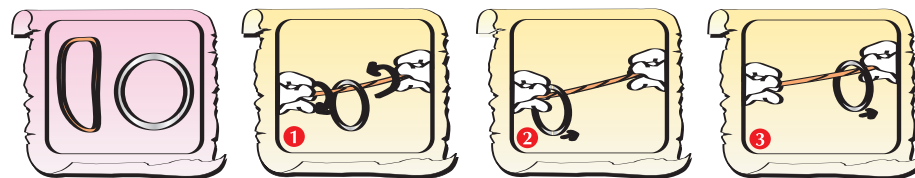


Hide the half-shell ring in your right hand.

The Moving Metal Ring

★★★

Get an additional long rubber band (or, if your rubber band is short, cut it so that it makes one long piece of elastic). Slide the metal ring over the rubber band. Twist the rubber band fairly tightly (figure 1) and then conceal a part of the band in your left hand. Tip the band so that the ring falls to touch the left fingers. Now, hold the rubber band so that the right hand is slightly higher than the left (although the rubber band should appear level to the audience). Slowly allow the concealed length of band to slip from your left fingers (figure 2). It is important that you keep your hands the same distance apart as you do this. It appears that the ring is moving along the band but, although your audience will not realize this, it is really the band that is moving.



The Coin Box

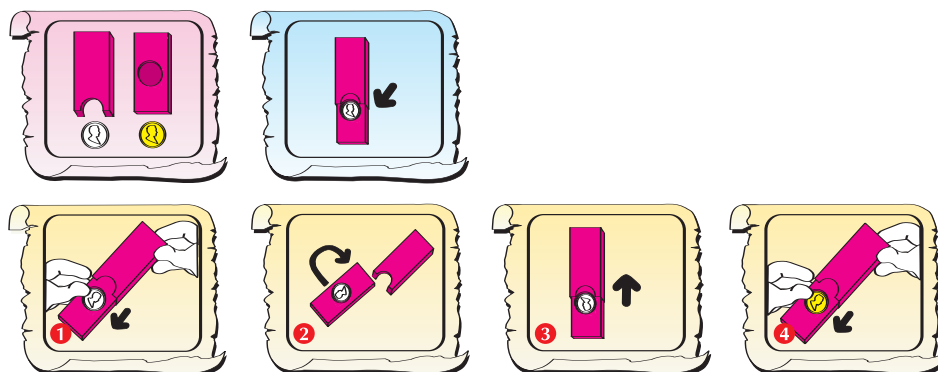
★

Effect: Using the magic coin box, change one coin into a different coin!

Performance: You'll need the magic coin box and two coins. Before the show, pull out the center piece, place the penny in the hole, turn the center piece around, and slide the other end of the center piece into the larger sleeve. Leave the magic coin box on the table like that.

During the show, pull out the center piece and you'll see that the hole is empty. Show the audience. Ask for a quarter from the audience. Then let the audience member put his/her quarter in the hole (that is now visible). Turn the center piece around again (you may want to talk to your audience to distract them while you turn the center piece around), slide it into the sleeve and pull it out again...the quarter has changed into the original penny you put in there before the show!

How it works: The magic coin box has two little holes which allow the coins to be pushed from one side of the center piece to the other. (You can see this for yourself by using a pencil tip to push on the notches on either end of the center piece; but don't let your audience see the secret.) You can also take the metal ring and let it disappear!



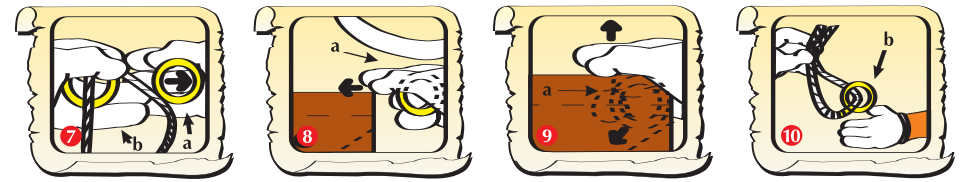
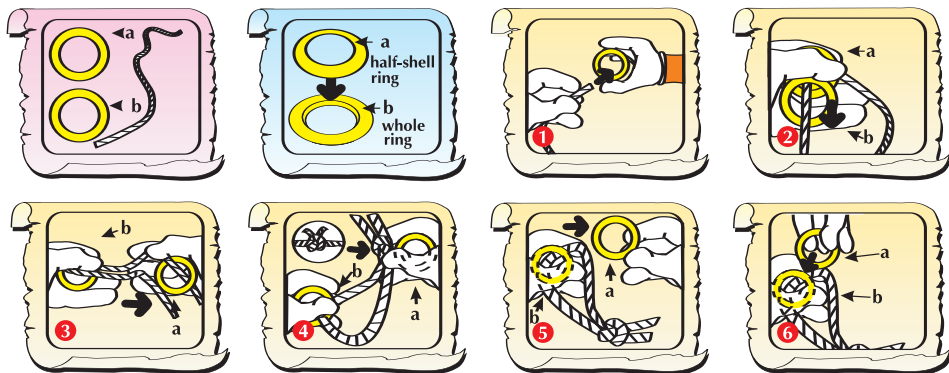
The Ellis Ring Trick

★★★★

Effect: A ring mysteriously appears on a knotted rope.

Performance: To perform this trick, you need the whole yellow ring (b) and the yellow half-shell ring (a) from your magic kit. Put them together as shown in the blue figure below.

1. Hold the rope in your left hand and the rings in your right hand. Be careful to show the audience the half-shell ring and to keep the whole ring carefully hidden inside/behind the half-shell so the audience can't tell that there are two pieces.
2. Show the audience as you slide the rope onto the ring. Say, "Here I have an ordinary rope and ring."
3. Secretly separate the rings and hide the whole ring in your left hand (this will take some practice) while you show the audience that you're now sliding the ring back off the rope (but you're really only sliding the half-shell off the rope). Announce, "Notice that I am sliding the ring off the rope." Once the ring is off say, "Now I am going to knot this rope and then make the ring magically appear back on the rope, without untying the knot."
4. Put the half-shell ring between the thumb and index finger of your hand where the audience can see it (remember: the whole ring is still hidden in your left hand) while you show the audience that you're tying a knot in the rope. (This is tricky to do with two rings in your hand; you'll have to practice it to make it look natural. Talk to your audience while you tie the rope to distract them from the somewhat odd way you may be holding everything.)
5. Show the audience that the ring and the rope are separate by holding up the half-ring and rope for them to see. The whole ring is still hidden in your left hand.
6. Tell your audience, "Now I will magically put the ring on the knotted rope." Put your hands together and say, "Hocus Pocus."
7. While your hands are together, secretly slide the half-shell ring into your right hand and...
- 8-9. hide it in your pocket.
10. At the same time that you are hiding the half-shell ring in your pocket, hold up the rope in your left hand. The audience will be surprised to see that the ring has mysteriously become reattached to a rope that was tied at both ends!

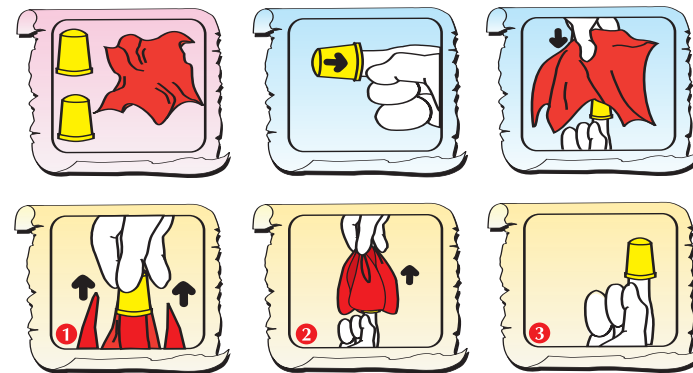


Audience believes freed ring has mysteriously appeared on the knotted rope again.

The Thimble Passes Through a Handkerchief

★

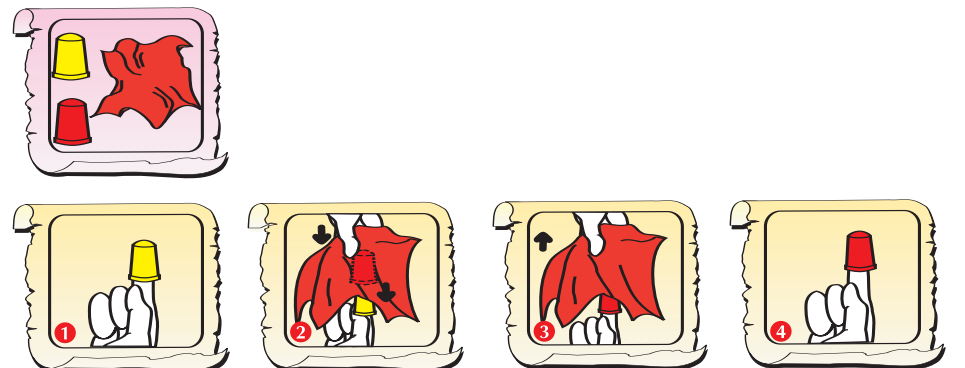
Secretly place the small yellow thimble on your right index finger, cover it with your handkerchief, and place the large thimble on top of the handkerchief making sure that the small thimble is underneath. Show the audience a thimble on a handkerchief, gather up the four corners with your left hand and pull. This will reveal the small thimble underneath! (Note: See page 2 for some ideas to use in place of the handkerchief.)



The Color-Changing Thimble in a Handkerchief

★

Cover your left fist with a handkerchief and secretly tuck the large red thimble into your fist. Show the audience the small yellow thimble on the index finger of your right hand. Place it into the handkerchief (which contains the red thimble). Remove the handkerchief to show the thimble is now red! (See page 2 for items you can use in place of a handkerchief.)



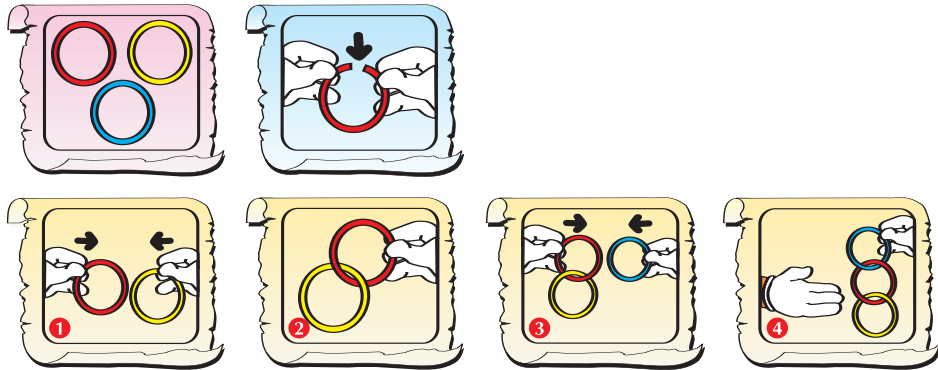
Linking Rings

★★

Effect: The magician makes three solid rings link together.

Performance: Show the three large different colored rings to the audience, making sure that they do not see that the red ring has a small opening, and tell them you are going to link the rings together. Hold the red ring with one hand and, with the other hand, take another ring and insert it through the opening in the red ring with one quick hit. Then do the same thing with the third ring, and the audience will see that the three rings have become mysteriously linked together.

Tip: To hide the fact that you are pushing a ring through the gap, bring them up to your mouth and blow!



The Ring and the Rope Trick

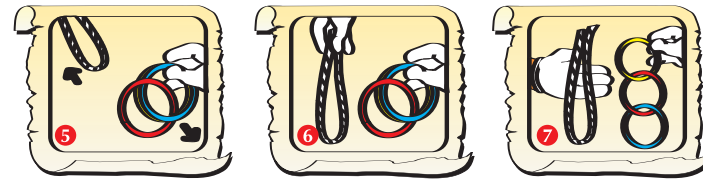
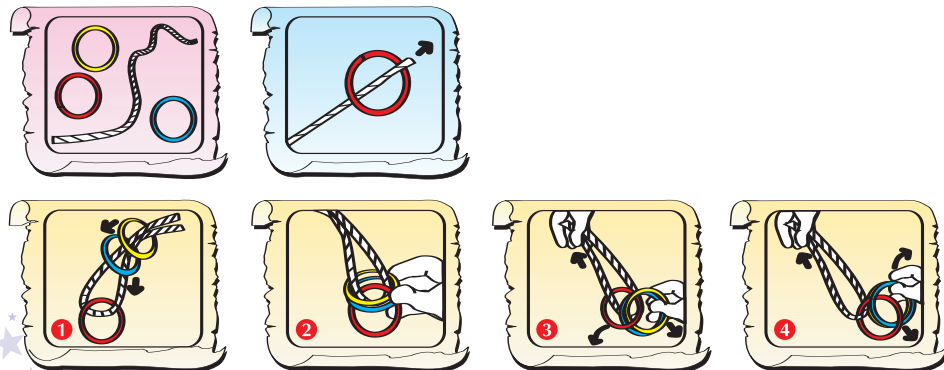
★★★

You'll need to practice the linking action in this trick before the show in order to make it look simple. (It would help to first master the Linking Rings trick before trying this one.)

You'll need the three large rings. Pass the rope through the red ring (which has the secret opening). Hold the rope by the two ends so that the red ring is hanging in the middle. Pass the other two rings over the rope ends so they are sitting atop the red ring (figures 1 and 2).

With a swift hand movement, grab the blue and yellow rings and quickly snap them onto the red one (figure 3) and then pull down to free the red ring from the rope (figures 4 and 5). (Or, if it's easier for you, secretly stretch open the red ring. While it's stretched open, quickly link the two other rings onto the red one and separate the red ring from the rope. Make sure the audience never sees the gap in the red ring!)

Hold up the yellow ring to show that all three are linked together (figure 7).



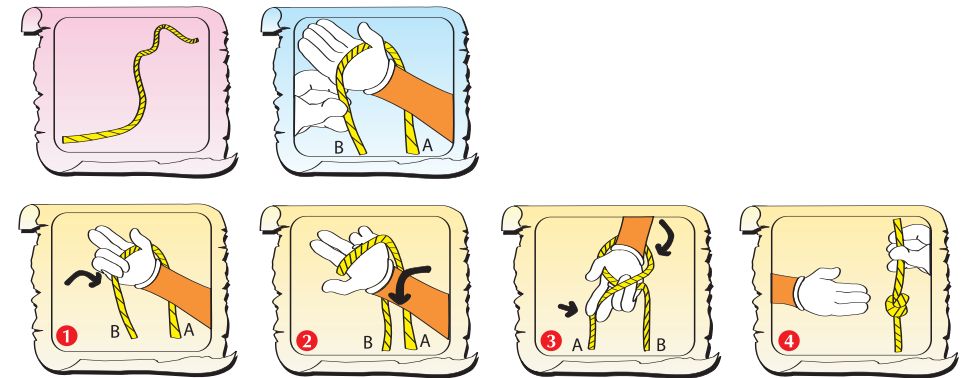
The Flash Knot

★★

Effect: The magician makes a knot with one hand.

Performance: Place the center of the rope over the palm of your right hand. The hanging end of the rope close to the thumb we will call "A," and the hanging end close to the little finger, we will call "B." You are going to do two moves at the same time: close the little and ring fingers holding the rope against the palm of your hand. Turn your hand over palm down and with the index and middle fingers, catch the end of the rope "A." With your hand still palm down, release the little finger and ring finger and a knot will be made in the center.

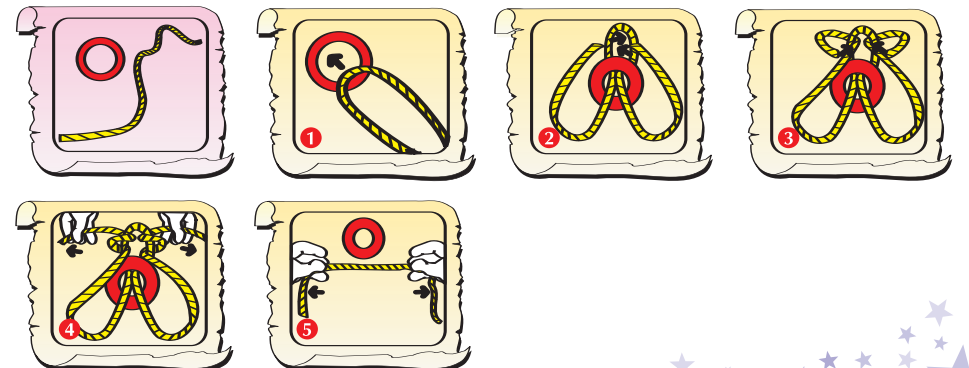
Tip: When you release the little and ring fingers, do a slight shake upwards with your hand so you help to make the knot.



The Jumping Ring

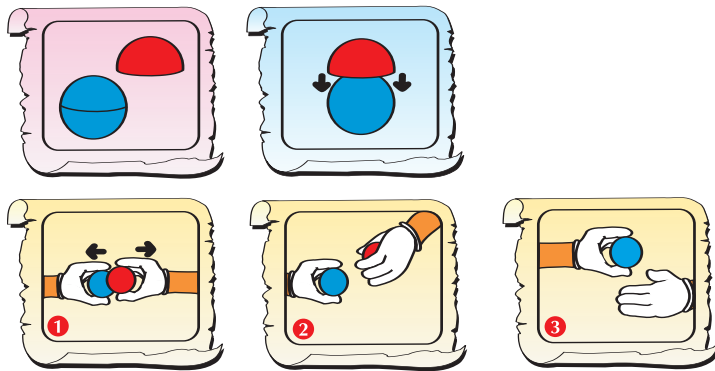
★

Take the rope and one of the small rings. Hold the rope in the middle and pass the looped end through the hole in the ring. Following the figures below, pass the ends of the rope through its loop twice and then pull on the ends. The ring will be mysteriously let loose from the rope.



A Ball That Changes Color

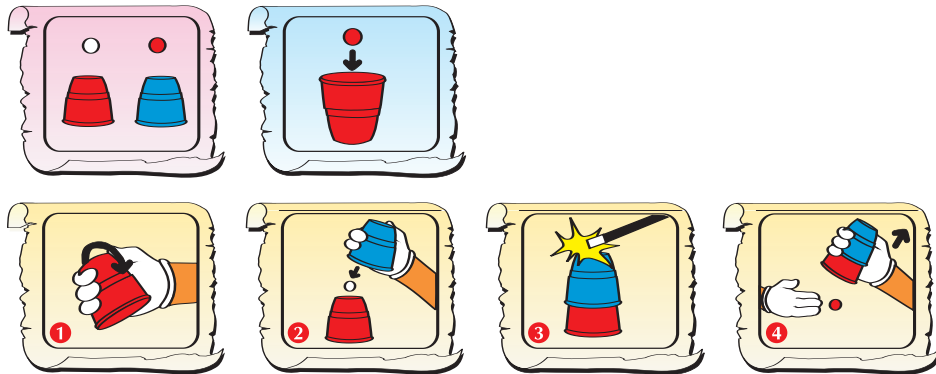
Place the red half-ball over the whole blue ball and hold it in your right hand so that the audience can only see the red half-ball. (It will look like you are holding a red ball.) Pass your left hand over the balls as if you are secretly doing a magic spell (say something like "Presto Change-o") and secretly remove the red half-ball. Hide the red half-ball in the palm of your left hand. When you move your hand away, the audience will think you magically changed the red ball into a blue one. You can pass the blue ball around for them to examine.



Do not let the audience see the red half-ball in your left hand.

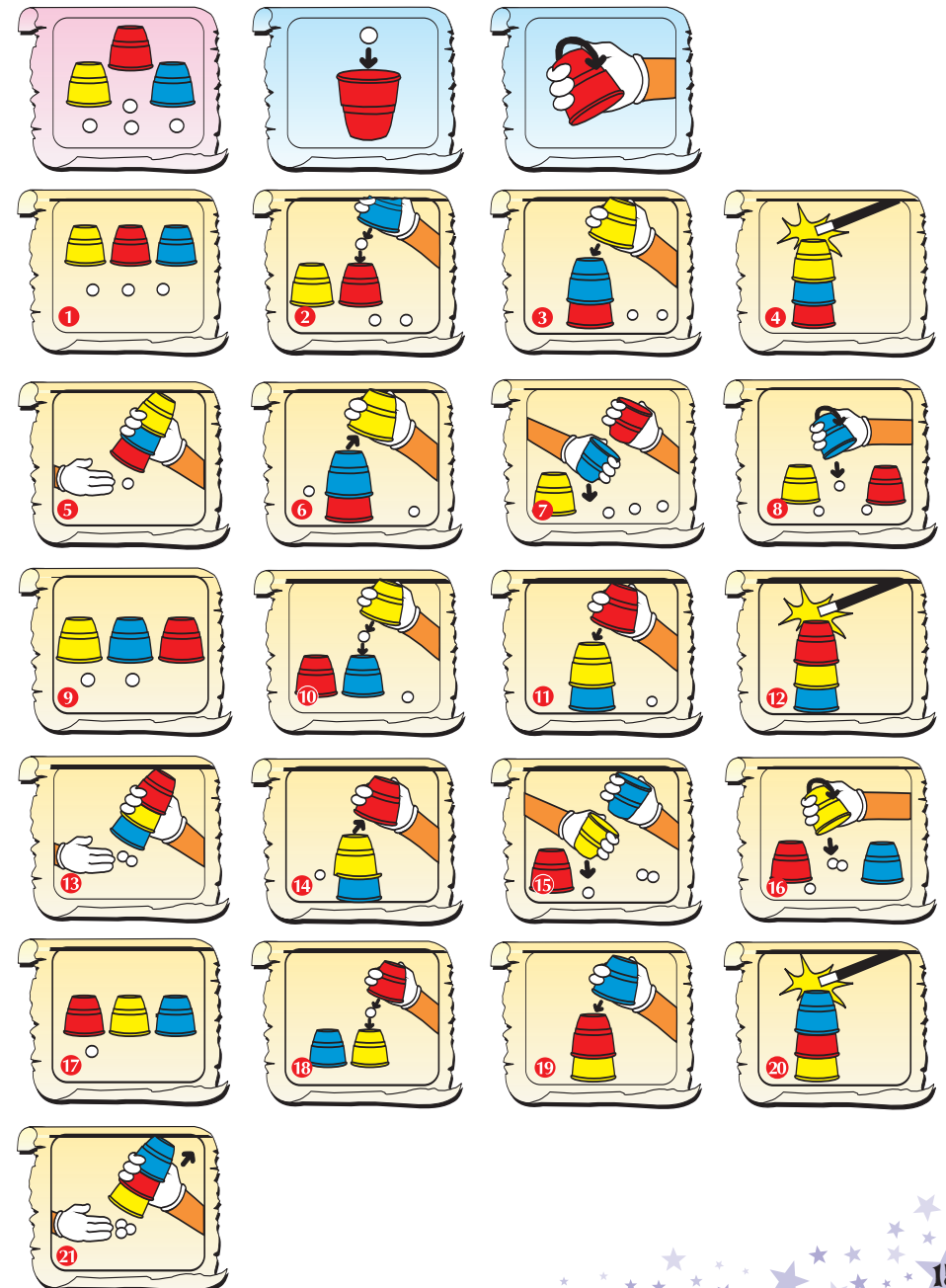
The Magic Cotton Ball

For this trick you will need the red and blue magic cups, and a white and a red cotton ball. Before presenting the trick, secretly place the red cotton ball in the red cup. Facing the audience, quickly place the red cup upside down on the table so that nobody sees the red cotton ball inside. Then, in view of the audience, place the white cotton ball on top of the red cup and cover the red cup and white cotton ball with the blue cup. Tap the blue cup with the magic wand. Then raise the two cups together so the audience will see that the white cotton ball has passed through the red cup and mysteriously become red.



The Multiplying Cotton Balls

Take the three magic cups and the four white cotton balls. Before presenting the trick, and without the audience seeing, place one cotton ball in the red cup, and then place the three cups upside down on a table with the other three cotton balls in front of them. In view of the audience, place a cotton ball on top of the red cup, the blue cup on top of the red one and the yellow cup on top of the blue one. Tap the yellow cup with the magic wand (figure 4) and then lift up all three cups together (figure 5). The audience will see that the cotton ball has appeared under the red cup. Repeat this procedure with the other cotton balls, always being careful that when you place the cups upside down, you've first hidden one or more cotton balls under the bottom cup (figures 6-21). Perform the trick again and the audience will be amazed to see that you have produced four cotton balls.

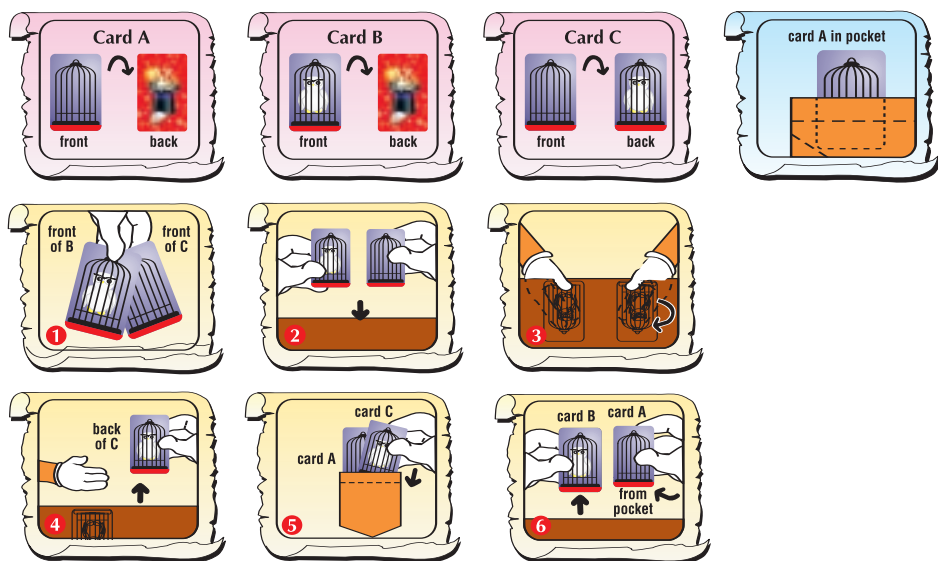


The Cards Change Place

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You need the card with only the cage (A), the card with the owl-in-the-cage (and nothing on the back) (B), and the double-faced card with a cage on one side and the owl-in-the-cage on the other side (C).

For this trick you use three cards (but the audience believes you use only two). Place the cage card (card A) into your jacket pocket before the trick starts so no one will know it is there. When you are ready to perform, use the one-sided owl-in-the-cage card (card B) and the card that has the cage card on one side (showing) and an owl-in-the-cage card on the back (card C). Show the audience the owl inside the cage (front of card B) and the empty cage (front of card C) and then place them out of sight – under the table or behind your back. Turn the double-faced card (card C) over so that the owl-in-the-cage (secret back) side of the card shows; bring it out and display this face only to the audience. Put it into the same pocket that has card A in it. Ask the audience, “Where is the owl card and where is the cage card?” (They will think the owl card is in your pocket and the cage card is hidden). The audience will be surprised to see that the cards are in different places when you remove the owl in the cage (card B) from under the table and the empty cage card (card A) from your pocket. The two cards may now be passed around as they are both one-sided.



The Disappearing Owl in the Box

★

With this trick, you can make the owl appear and disappear in your magic box. Put the toy owl inside the magic box. Hold the box on the back side so that you can feel that the back wall of the box can slide very slightly to one side. By sliding the back wall of the box to the right with your thumb and opening the box with your other hand, you can make the owl disappear. (If you close the box and then slide the back wall of the box left to its original position, the owl will appear again.)

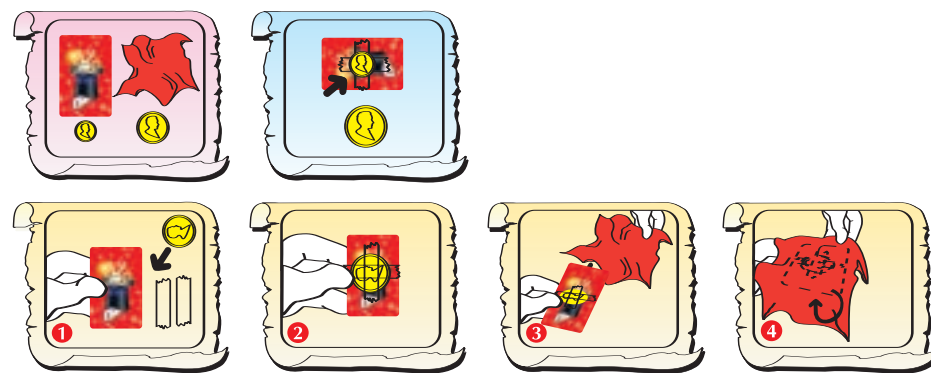


Devaluation

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Before doing this trick, secretly tape a penny on one side of the double-back card from your magic box. Keep the penny side of the card out of the sight of your audience when you show them the card. Now ask a member of the audience for a coin (other than a penny). Let them watch you tape this to the other side of the card. Cover the card with a handkerchief and, under protection of this handkerchief, turn the card rapidly. Remove the card with the penny side facing the audience. The audience member's money lost part of its value!

You can do this trick without a handkerchief by turning the card rapidly under the table.



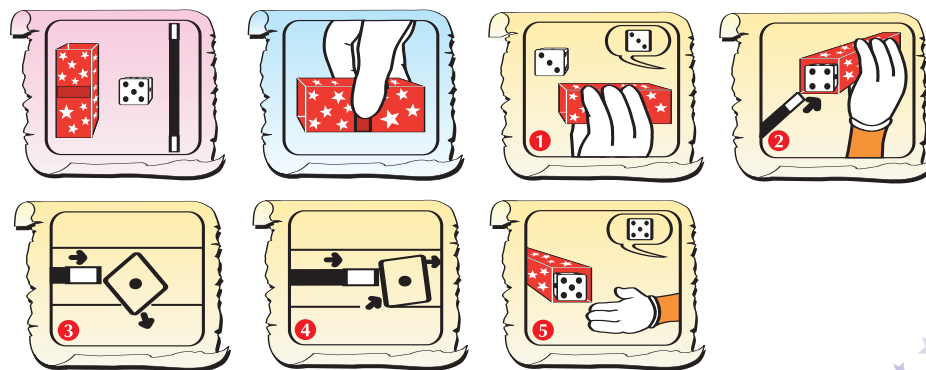
The Dice Tunnel

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Effect: You, the magician, will mysteriously change the number of a die by passing it through a magic tunnel.

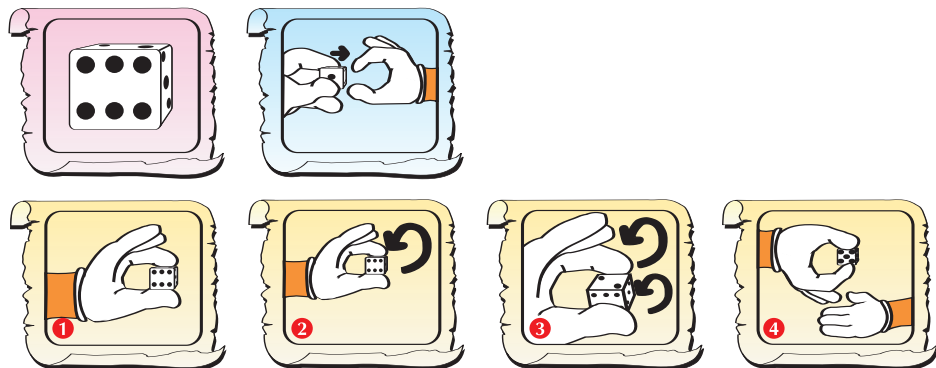
Performance: To do this, take the dice tunnel cardboard assembly, flatten it, and show it to your audience. Fold the assembly back into a tunnel. You will see that there is a hole in the center of the dice tunnel. Always keep this hole on the bottom side of the tunnel and hide it with your thumb. Now, take a die and place it in the tunnel with, for example, the 5 facing forward. Using a pencil, carefully push the die through the tunnel. The die will topple over when it hits the hole in the center. As a result, the 4 will now be showing on the die.

Note: Whatever number is on top of the die will end up facing forward from the tumbling action. Be sure to hide the hole in the tunnel with your thumb to conceal it from the audience. Finally, flatten the tunnel again and show it to your audience so they see there is nothing inside the tunnel.



Dotty Dots

Hold the playing die between your index finger and thumb, displaying the number 6. Now, turn your hand upside down to show the number 1 on the opposite side, and then turn your hand back again to show the number 6. When you turn your hand over again, this time twist the die between your index finger and thumb and instead of the number 1, you will see the number 5! It has changed!



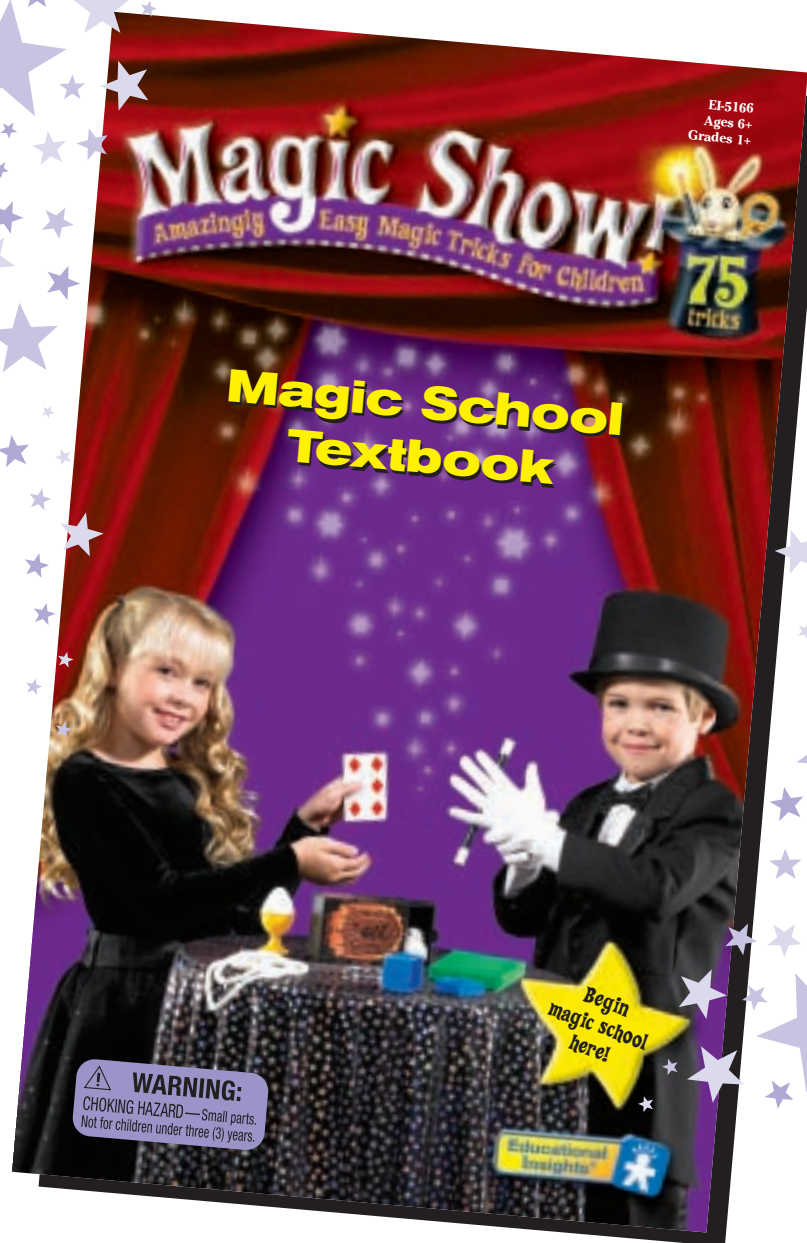
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