



Ryan Oakes’ Magic Set #2

THE BALANCING GLASS, PART 2

Effect: The magician shows a playing card and an empty glass. He places the card on edge on the table and then sets the glass on top... the cup perfectly balances!

Props Needed: A plastic cup or bottle, two playing cards, scotch tape, scissors.

Preparation: You will be making a playing card with an extra flap on the back. Take one of the playing cards and cut it in half. Place the whole card facedown on the table. Line up the cut card with the other (full) card and then tape it down in the middle. With the playing card’s busy background, it should be very difficult to see that there is a half-card taped to it.

Performance:

- Place the card on the table on its edge, with the back of the card towards you. Make sure your spectators are seated in front of you (you’ll need to watch your angles on this one).
- Hold the card in place as you then place the cup on top of it.
- As you pretend to “steady” the cup, secretly pull the flap out and use it to hold the cup in place. You’ll find that the cup easily balances on the “tripod” you’ve just created with the card and flap.
- To finish, lift the cup up with one hand while the other hand quickly grasps the card and the flap, closing the flap. You can then show both the glass and the card once more and nothing will look suspicious.

THE ACROBATIC CARDS

Effect: Two “acrobatic” playing cards are shown to a spectator. They are placed in the middle of the deck, where they are effectively buried. The magician then claims that the two cards will perform an acrobatic feat to fly out of the deck. With that, he tosses the deck from one hand to the other. Amazingly, the acrobatic cards are now left his hand!

Props Needed: A deck of cards.

Preparation: Remove two pairs of cards. Preferably, they will be number cards in black suits. I usually use 6 of clubs / 6 of spades and 8 of clubs / 8 of spades. Place the 6 of clubs on top of the deck and the 8 of spades on the bottom.

Performance:

- Start with the 6 of spades and 8 of clubs face down on the table.
- Keep the deck face down so the spectator does not see the 8.
- Turn over the pair and casually show them in one hand. Mention that you have a “pair of cards... just a 6 and an 8.” Do not mention the suits.
- Place the cards into the middle of the pack, in separate locations. Be sure the audience sees that they are fairly placed into the deck in the middle.
- Hold the deck with your thumb on top and fingers on the bottom. Toss the deck from the right hand into the left hand. As you do, maintain a bit of pressure on the deck. This pressure will cause the top card (the 6) and the bottom card (the 8) to be left behind in your fingers. No one will notice that the cards are opposites from the original cards!

MELTING ROPES

Effect: The magician shows two pieces of kitchen twine. He places them in his hand (or the hand of a spectator) and then waves his hand over them. Magically, the two pieces become one!

Follow-up Quick Trick: How to tie a knot in a rope without letting go of the ends! (Your friends can’t do it!)

Props Needed: A piece of kitchen twine (the type made up of two smaller pieces wound together)

Preparation: Cut a length of twine about two feet long. At the center of the piece pull apart the two sections of rope. As you pull them apart, you’ll find that they naturally want to twist back up. Let them twist back on themselves so that they create “fake” ends of the rope.

Performance:

- Pinch the ends and hold them at the seam you’ve created to show two pieces of twine.
- Ask for a spectator to hold out her hand.
- Place the pieces in the spectator’s hand and quickly close their hand. Leave one end of each “piece” sticking out of each side of her hand.
- Wave your hands over the spectator’s hand.
- Pull the two ends of the rope sticking out (this will cause the “fake” ends you created to be absorbed back into the body of the twine).
- Ask her to open her hand. Two have become one!

WILL THE CARDS MATCH?

Effect: The magician displays five playing cards or business cards. He tears them all in half. He then proceeds to mix the two piles up by spelling the words “WILL THE CARDS MATCH?”. After each word, he sets aside two halves. After the question has been spelled out, he turns over the newly assembled pairs... they all match!!

Props Needed: five different playing cards

Performance:

- Tear the cards in half.
- Place the two stacks face down on the table.
- Show the spectator that each pile contains five “half-cards”. As you say this, pick one pile and count the pieces onto the table (this reverses the order).
- Pick up one stack and begin to spell “W-I-L-L”. For each letter, place one card to the bottom.

Performance Part 1:

- Tell the spectator that you will spell “WILL THE CARDS MATCH?”. As you do, the spectator can tell you to switch piles at any time.
- After each word is complete, take the top card of each pile and set them aside.
- Continue to spell the sentence. After “MATCH” you will have made four paired up cards and left one final pair on the table.
- Dramatically turn over all five pairs... they indeed match!

THE RISING RING

Effect: The magician borrows a finger ring or key ring. He threads the ring onto a rubber band and holds it up between both hands. The rubber band is held at an angle, with the ring sitting at the bottom. Slowly, the ring starts to float UP the rubber band. Spooky!

Follow-up Quick Trick: How to make a rubber band form a star...with one hand!

Props Needed: A finger ring or key ring and a thin, medium-sized rubber band.

Performance:

- With your right hand, grab 4/5 of the rubber band (doubled over itself) and pinch it with your right forefinger and thumb. Hide the rest of the rubber band in your closed right fist.
- On the protruding piece, thread the ring.
- With your left hand, hold the rubber band in between your left thumb and forefingers.
- Stretch the rubber band as tightly as it will go (should only be about4-5” since most of the band is hidden in your hand).

5. Demonstrate how much movement is needed to make the ring move down/up the rubber band (it usually takes at least a 45 degree angle).

6. Lower your right hand so that the ring is at the bottom of the slope, near your thumb and forefinger.

7. Hold your arms steady (you can even have them held by a spectator) and begin to stare intently at the rubber band.

8. Slowly release the tension between your right thumb and forefinger. As the tension is released, you will see the ring slowly “move” up the band!

THE FLOATING BREAD ROLL

Effect: Seated at the dinner table, the magician takes a bread roll and covers it with his cloth napkin. Magically, the bread roll begins to float out of his hand! The magician holds the top two corners of the napkin while the bread roll mysteriously rises behind it! How’s the bread roll doing this???? Too much yeast!

Props Needed: A bread roll, a fork, and a table napkin

Preparation: Secretly place your fork in your lap at dinner (or a duplicate second fork if you can so no one will notice yours is missing!).

Performance:

- At dinner, offer to show how you can make bread rise, without yeast!
- Take a dinner roll and hold it in your outstretched left hand.
- Reach into your lap and get your napkin, but secretly hide the fork inside as well.
- Stab the fork into the bread roll.
- Grab the fork and the corner of the napkin, as your other hand holds the other corner. The roll should appear to now be floating under the napkin.
- Slowly move the napkin around as if the roll is floating underneath.
- Hold the corners taught and then you can “peek” the roll up to the edge of the napkin by moving your hand with the fork.
- Act as if the roll is pulling you away!
- Finally, let go with the hand not holding the fork. Reach underneath and retrieve the roll, pulling it off the fork.
- Quickly move your hand with the fork and napkin to your lap, where you can ditch the fork.

THE FLOATING CUP

Effect: The magician takes a cup and holds it in between his fingers. Amazingly, the magician slowly peels his fingers away and the cup remains floating in mid air!

Props Needed: A plastic-foam or paper cup. For alternative presentation: an opaque plastic cup and some cellophane tape

Preparation: Tear a small hole in the back of the cup about the size of your thumb. Alternative: Make a small loop of tape and affix it to the back of the cup (it should have some slack in it big enough for your thumb).

Performance:

Hold cup in between hands with thumbs at back. Place your thumb into the cut hole (or through tape loop). Slowly move your fingers away so that it appears as though the cup is floating in between your hands.

EYE OF THE NEEDLES

Effect: The magician is able to make a piece of rope thread through a hole in lighting-fast speed!

Props Needed: A piece of thick rope about 2-3 feet long.

Performance:

Hold the rope in your left hand with about 10 inches hanging from the bottom. Wrap the top length around your left thumb, wrapping the rope from top to bottom. Wrap it around three times and then bring the remainder up into your hand and make a bow. Pinch the bow closed with your left thumb and fingers. Now, gab the length hanging from the bottom and “aim” it at the bow. Count to three and on THREE pull the extra length beyond the bow... it will look at though you threaded the long piece through the bow (actually the length just unwound from your thumb and a piece slipped into the bow).

VANISHING QUARTER

Effect: A quarter vanishes right from your bare hand!

Props Needed: One quarter, a table, and a chair.

Performance:

Place the quarter on the table and tell your audience that you’d like to show them a quick trick. Place your fingers on top of the quarter and use them to move the quarter to the edge of the table. As your fingers reach the edge, pretend to pick the quarter up with your fingers and thumb. Actually, the quarter falls into your lap as your hand continues in the smooth motion. Now, bring your hand up with the fingers facing the audience. Act as if the quarter is still in your hand. Make a squeezing motion with your fingers and then slowly open your hand to show that the quarter has vanished!

MATH MAGIC

Effect: The result of some math perfectly matches the magician’s prediction!

Props Needed: Two pieces of paper and a pencil. And a calculator if you need it!

Preparation: You’ll need to write a prediction on one of the pieces of paper. Write the numbers 1089 in big number and then fold the piece of paper into thirds. Write on the outside: PREDICTION.

Performance:

Have a spectator pick a three-digit number and write it down on the paper. Now, have them subtract the REVERSE of the number. If the result is negative, just make it positive. Now, have them add the REVERSE of that number. The result will be 1089. Tell them that even though they could have picked any number you knew all along what their answer would be. Open the Prediction and show them you had the EXACT SAME NUMBER!

MAGIC WITH YOUR MOUTH

Effect: A grape magically goes right through your cheek!

Props Needed: Two grapes.

Preparation: Hide one of the grapes in your mouth.

Performance:

Pick up a grape and show it in your right hand. Pass it to your left hand, secretly retaining it in your right hand. Now lightly smack your left hand against your left cheek. At the same time you open your hand to show that the grape is now gone, open your mouth slightly and let the hidden grape come into view!

PERFECT CUT

Effect: A card cut to by a spectator perfectly matches the magician’s prediction!

Props Needed: A piece of paper, a pencil, and a deck of cards.

Preparation: Take a look at the top card of the deck (make sure it’s shuffled) and write the name of the card on the piece of paper. This will be your prediction. Fold it up and place it aside.

Performance:

Show the spectator the deck of cards and spread them across your hands to show them shuffled. Place the deck face down on the table and ask the spectator to cut the deck about in the middle. Have them place the part they removed back on top of the



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deck, upside down. Now, have them cut the deck again, only this time cutting deeper than their first cut. Have them flip this portion upside down and again place it back on top of the deck. Now, ask them to spread through the cards until they come to the first face down card. Remove it and place it aside. Ask the spectator to open the prediction and read it aloud. Turn the selected card over to show that it matches the prediction!

VANISHING CRAYONS

Effect: The four crayons in the box are actually not whole crayons, they are half-crayons.

Props Needed: Crayon box, plastic insert, and four half-crayons.

Preparation: To prepare the box, place all four half-crayons into the plastic holder. You can use a bit of tape to hold them together if needed; this will also help them stay in the holder better. Place this gimmick into the crayon box, with the crayons pointing up towards the top of the box.

Performance:

- Hold the crayon box with your thumb on the front and fingers on the back. If you tilt the top of the box towards the floor, the crayon tops will slide into view through the window. Press your thumb against the crayons to hold them in place; you can now lift your hand and plainly show the crayons in the box.
- Turn your hands toward your body so that the window is now facing you.
- Make a magical gesture towards the box and then tap the box with your other hand. As you tap, release the pressure of your thumb and the crayons will slide down to the bottom of the box.
- Turn the box towards your audience and show them that the crayons have disappeared!

RABBIT RINGS TRICK

Effect: The rabbit token disappears and reappears on the green card. One ring has a false bottom that exactly matches the green card. This false bottom hides the rabbit token, but cannot be seen by the audience.

Props Needed: Green card, rabbit token, playing card, purple ring, purple ring with green bottom.

Preparation: Place both rings on the green card in front of you. Keep the trick ring on the right side of the card.

Performance:

- Take the rabbit token and place it in the middle of the normal ring on the left side of the card.
- Take the three of spades and place it over the trick ring on the right.
- Now take the normal ring on the left and place it on top of the playing card.
- Lift the entire stack (both rings and playing card) and place it over the rabbit token.
- Remove the top ring and the playing card to reveal the missing rabbit token.

TIP: If you want to make the rabbit token reappear, simply reverse the steps.

CRAZY COINS

Effect: Four quarters disappear from a cap held in one hand and magically reappear in the other hand! An extra quarter is taped to the bottom of the cap. You turn the cap over and secretly slip out the four quarters, but it still looks like the quarters are in the cap.

Props Needed: Crazy coin cap, double-sided tape, 5 quarters

Preparation: Stick a quarter in the space on the bottom of round cap using a piece of double-sided tape.

Performance:

- Say, “Keep your eyes on my hands because the hand can be quicker then the eye!” Place the cap in the palm of your hand with the secret quarter hidden on the bottom of the cap. Show the audience that your other hand is empty.
- Have a volunteer place four quarters in the cap. As you close your hand, secretly turn the cap over.
- With the cap in your fist, shake the cap near someone’s ear to show that the quarters are inside. Bring your hand back and open it. The side with the single quarter will be up, but the audience will think they are seeing the top of a stack of four quarters.
- Lift up the cap with your other hand. As you do so, curve your hand around the four quarters that will be left in it and make a fist.
- Make a fist with your other hand turning the cap over again as before, but this time the empty side of the cap will be up.
- Open your hands and show the empty side of the cap up in one hand and the quarters in the other. The quarters will seem to have jumped from the cap to your other hand! Your audience will be very impressed!

