



HARVEY NERZOF'S ON-LINE MAGIC REVIEWS

May 2005

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H.

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EXCELLENT

This section contains, in my humble opinion, the best magic/mental/hypnotic stuff commercially available for professional performers. Alas, you will find very few items here...

HN Magic Review 14: Real Mind Reading video/ DVD – Docc Hilford

AD:

The mindreading demonstrations that Doc Hilford teaches you on this new video are so real that you'll be believing them yourself. This is an incredible suite of three effects, designed to be presented in an intimate close-up environment, such as a living room or after a good meal. This is **Real Mind Reading**.

With no phony psychobabble or mentalistic posing, Doc Hilford reads a person's mind not once but three times. He ascertains a playing card that is merely thought of (no deck used, not the AS). He receives a word projected from the person's mind. Last, he psychically duplicates a picture drawn by the person. Yes, there are other methods for these effects, but not that can be used close-up, surrounded, and in close succession with the same person.

This is not just a set of effects. This is a carefully orchestrated suite of killer demonstrations that will make the reputations of those who use them. Want to impress a client or prospect? Want to seal that new trade show deal? Want to never be at a loss again when someone wants a demonstration of what you can do? This tape is the answer.

It's astounding that material of this caliber can be made available so inexpensively, but it is. This is a limited edition tape, but you can have your own copy of **Real Mind Reading** for just \$55.00.

REVIEW:

Great and expensive video from the late Brian Flora, one of the best I own. The tape includes a verbal card effect (also described in Kenton Knepper's Killer Konceptions) – the introductory patter is definitely worth your consideration and can be applied to any of your psy-forces: I suggest you transcribe it and pay close attention to every single gesture and pause, because there is much more than what is actually explained.

The second effect is a Flashback-type booktest, performed with your own dictionary, while the last one (a DR design duplication) should definitely not be used as a closer...

OVERALL RATING: Excellent

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=13376&forum=111>

HN Magic Review 6: Wonder Words 1, 2, 3 – Kenton Knepper

AD:

This is the classic set of audio and booklets that changed the face of magic and mentalism forever. Discover the true power of words and how words can change what people see, think, hear, and feel. Learn how words alone may be used as your only gimmick in a trick. Create miracles and do nothing – but use these "magic words" to produce miracles.

Wonder Words, Volume 1

Imagine being able to take control of the very thoughts, perceptions, and responses of your audience. Picture your audiences' amazement when they really can not explain the trick because the magic is done with

words, not sleights or props. This is what Wonder Words will teach you. It is prestidigitation of the mind.

It's finally here, the audio book everyone has been waiting for - **now on CD!** After lots of prodding from Larry Becker, Jeff Mc Bride, Docc Hilford, Dr. Juris, Lee Earle and many other pros, Kenton has agreed to part with the information that he has kept under tight wraps to all but a very select few.

Whether you're a magician or mentalist, Kentons' secrets will radically alter your work and the reaction to it. Revealed are the verbal tools used by top psychologists to influence and control clients' actions and attitudes. This is not a dissertation on hypnosis, this is *Wonder Words -- The Art of Linguistic Deception*.

Perhaps even more telling was the response at Docc Hilfords' Weerd Weekend. *Wonder Words* was a complete sell-out less than an hour after Kenton introduced it. Docc himself said "*This is the new Fitzkee.*" Others said "*One of the most significant works ever produced in magic,*" "*This is going into the library at the Castle.*"

Even before it's official release, Jeff McBride praised *Wonder Words* saying, "*You're a spell-weaver of words that can even make mimes speak...I'm living proof. Your material has dramatically transformed the way I'm doing my spell weaving these days!*"

As important as this material is to your work, you're probably anxious to get a copy of your own. Finally you can...here's how. Just fill out the order form on the back of this sheet, mail it in and very soon you will know what few others know... *The Art of Linguistic Deception*.

Wonder Words, Volume 2

Yes, it's finally here! NOW on CD...AND at a LOWER PRICE too! If you didn't purchase *Volume One* and somehow missed all the reviews, you may not know what all the excitement is about. You wouldn't know that Kenton's work has been compared to Fitzkee; you would be unaware that Jeff McBride, Michael Close, Doc Eason, Larry Becker, Lee Earle and lots more say that this is ground breaking material... a must for everyone's library.

Wonder Words Volume Two is subtitled "*The Real Work*" because it is exactly that. In *Wonder Words Volume One* Kenton began the journey....*Volume Two* turns that journey into a performance altering adventure. So what's the big deal?

For starters: Wouldn't it be great if people constantly talked about a trick they saw you perform when in fact you NEVER EVER did that trick at all? Just think of it! There is a secret way to simply tell a story and cause people to believe they actually SAW YOU PERFORM the trick, when all you did was TALK ABOUT IT! (No, it isn't "hypnosis").

In *Volume One*, you were (As Michael Close said) "*Totally Blown Away*" by how easy it was to greatly improve your performance by changing a few simple words. *Volume Two -- The Real Work* offers equally simple techniques that achieve even more startling results.

Still want more? Well of course there are killer effects as part of the package. Like how to cause a spectator to TRAVEL THROUGH TIME and come back with PHYSICAL PROOF. This is directly from Kenton's act. Yes all the little touches Kenton uses are there as always.

What else? How about an "Invisible Deck" routine with no deck at all? No stooges or other sneaky set ups either. The spectator just MIMES taking a card from thin air, and you can TELL them what they chose (No it isn't some silly mathematical thing either).

Another diabolical effect is a never before published telephone trick. Already several performers are using this bit to book thousands of dollars in extra performances.... You can too!

OF COURSE THERE'S MUCH MORE...
Perhaps you'd like to be able to point into the sky and cause a cloud, any cloud a spectator chooses, to vanish from the sky. No kidding. It's easy once you know the right WORDS. Kenton gives you the WHOLE story on how to do this with words alone.

Imagine you have a spectator just THINK of any letter in any word they choose. Now imagine that you not only tell the spectator the letter they are thinking about, but you also describe the EXACT THOUGHTS they had while deciding on that particular letter! Isn't that what a REAL "mindreader" would be able to do? Now you can!

Did we mention the ability to look at a spectator and KNOW if they would "play along" or be overly skeptical? You will learn this too. Wouldn't it be great if you could determine how a spectator felt about money, people, their play time, their work time, etc. just by a spectator uttering a few simple words? You can, and Kenton will tell you how.

Of course there is still so much more! So just consider this: If you have ever wanted to be a rousing success in your work; If you have ever wanted to honestly MOVE an audience; If you have ever wanted to be considered "legendary"; If you have ever wanted people to remember your shows for YEARS even DECADES to come; If you have ever wanted to learn the REAL WORK that only the most successful acts in entertainment use, THEN THESE TAPES ARE FOR YOU.

If you don't care about ANY of these things, then maybe all the effects above have got your attention. There's even more of those too!

Whatever your reason for purchasing *Wonder Words Volume Two*, you're bound to be blown away by the material it contains. If you have *Volume One* you already know how important this series is to your performances. Many of you have applied the principles in the first volume to your "other" work.

Find Out Why Movie Studio Heads, Theatrical Directors, Lawyers, Publishers and Performers The World Over Have Been Anxiously Awaiting!

Wonder Words, Volume 3

Yes, the time has come... The very last volume of the *Wonder Words Series* is almost at your doorstep. Now on CD...and NOW at a FAR LOWER price too! This is the end of it all, friends - and what an ending it is...

Kenton ends the series with a BANG including contributions from **Jeff McBride, Dan Harlan, Joel Bauer, Docc Hilford, and MORE**. This final volume will leave you breathless! The book alone is over **50 pages** in length, with detailed effects direct from the acts of working pros. There is also a complete and precise index to BOTH *Volumes Two AND Three*, for easy reference (*Volume One* has its own index). And *Volume Three* is JAM-PACKED, the biggest volume ever!

So what else is in here? Imagine being able to get a spectator to scream, just by saying a few seemingly harmless words. Just think of an entire audience believing in you INSTANTLY, because you speak a single phrase. Learn to stop unwanted annoyances dead in their tracks. Discover the one secret word that causes people to do what you want them to - it's proven scientifically! Uncover the "code" used throughout the series. This alone can expand the series into the equivalent of another several volumes. Hear how your tone of voice can become a "gimmick" in any effect or routine. Uncover the secret about ALL words! And that's just for starters...

What about the "tricks?" A spectator holds his watch and merely THINKS of a special moment in time. You not only begin to describe this event, you reveal the time - which now shows on his watch! Or how about this: You not only talk about "subliminal programming" - you prove it. In fact, this might be how the trick really works! There are more than a half-dozen other incredible effects. You won't believe all that Kenton has given up THIS time - the final time!

REVIEW:

All those glitters and hypes... they are hard to swallow, but this pricey NLP trilogy is a must have. The amount of information provided on linguistics, suggestions and psychological subtleties is HUGE.

The indexes are poorly made (sorry Marelli), but I guess this was planned to leave most of the information on the tapes, and to avoid photocopies? Also, a digital format would have been appreciated, since accessing specific information on a tape can be very time consuming. The WW series have been recently converted to CD format, but the old-timers like your humble reviewer are stuck with the audiotapes.

For reference purposes only, fillers such as "Oh I have so much to tell you, and so little time to do it, so we're going to move right along, blasting through all those new concepts very quickly, you can always stop the tape and rewind it, and listen to it several times, and you should be doing that anyway blah blah blah" are somewhat disturbing. The "marking" tape, on the other hand, is simply COMICAL....

In any case, a valuable investment for the serious performer.

OVERALL RATING: Excellent

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=23179&forum=111>

HN Magic Review 2: Psychological Subtleties – Banachek

AD:

In this long-awaited new book, Banachek reveals the true secrets of his success: psychological subtleties that transform "mental magic" into "psychic entertainment." Most of the effects require no advance preparation and may be performed at a moment's notice. Those who have Steve Shaw's earlier monographs will not hesitate to add this to their libraries.

From the introduction by Teller: "BANACHEK IS BRILLIANT at subtle deceptions. My partner Penn and I have repeatedly called upon his vast knowledge, diabolical ingenuity, and remarkable imagination, and have never been disappointed. This man has the goods, and now you do, too. But be careful. THIS IS A VERY DANGEROUS BOOK. In the wrong hands, these subtle, deeply devious methods could be used to convince audiences that the performer is not an artist, but a supernatural being..."

REVIEW:

The name says it all – a book full of "psychological convincers" and forces to be integrated in your mental routines. Each chapter is dedicated to a specific issue, i.e. cards, coins, postcards, dreams, handwriting, metal bending (not a surprise!), drawings, hands etc.

Most of the chapters are unfortunately very short (each of them could have taken a full book...) and only skim the surface of the issue.

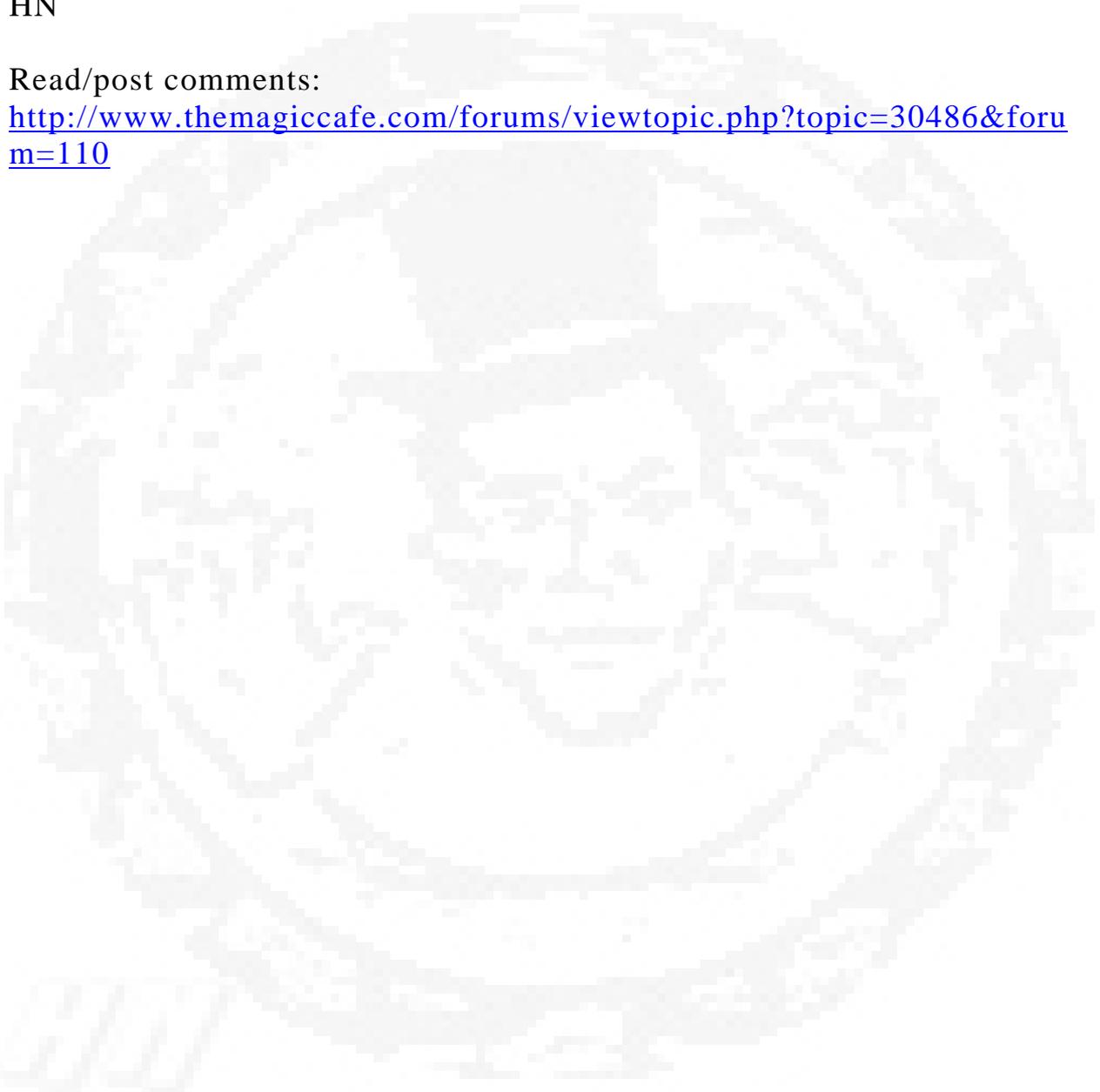
My personal favorite is a letter divination (also published in Knepper's [Wonder Words](#) and Busch's [Peek Performances](#)), used in conjunction with a booktest.

OVERALL RATING: Excellent

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=30486&forum=110>



Very Good

Recommended items. In average, I get one of those every 30 items I purchase (sigh...)

HN Magic Review 103: An Evening at the Tom Foolery - Tom Mullica

AD:

Here is the only existing record of Tom Mullica's frenzied comedy magic as performed at the Tom-Foolery Magic Bar Theatre. See dozens of sidesplitting gags, jokes and routines. See his "Apple Trick" and his trademark "Nicotine Nincompoop" where he eats a pack of lit cigarettes and a stack of napkins. Not only will you view this video over and over, but you will want to show it to your non magical friends as pure entertainment. Red Skelton called him the Best in his Field!!

REVIEW:

A truly hilarious video, showcasing Tom Mullica at his very best. Beware, the tricks are NOT explained: this may frustrate the beginners, but anyway you need to be a geek like Tom to perform certain stunts. Besides, this allows you to share the fun with your non-magical friends, if you find any.

The performance scripts are also available (edited by Richard Kaufman), but sold separately.

OVERALL RATING: very good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=71244&forum=111>

HN Magic Review 82: Building Blocks – Luke Jermay

AD:

Luke Jermay has done it again! He has decided to release more of his awesome material, the routines which he uses to stun audiences around the world.

In this important new volume, Luke has tipped the real work on using Suggestion Techniques. Luke covers the Definition = Creation theory along with several other techniques and teachings. This, coupled with his groundbreaking applications of the four Convincers, is enough to transform and amplify your performances right away. But that's just for starters! Wait until you see some of the effects he teaches. Imagine yourself performing these routines:

- A plucked rose visibly wilts and dies as you talk about the fragility of life!
- An aura reading routine, which climaxes with the spectator genuinely seeing your aura - and you can provide proof!
- You cause the spectator's sense of time to physically slow down (we don't just mean their watch, although of course that happens as well!). They are almost unable to physically move as they are stuck in a single moment of time.
- You perform a version of Out Of This World, with a borrowed deck, with no set-up, no sleights or switches. In fact the spectator's intuition can even be shown as correct for each individual card as it is dealt! This is the real work on the verbal control of a spectator.
- Despite being blindfolded, you can read a selected sentence chosen at random from a borrowed book, with your fingertips! You can even scan through the whole book with your fingertips and comment on the story and characters. Did we mention that the blindfold is real and that you genuinely can't see a thing and you can do this anywhere anytime?!
- Imagine having your spectator actually feel their thought leave their mind and enter yours - imagine no more! With the Burst Bubble suggestion, your spectator will believe they felt the moment of magic happen inside their own mind!

These are just a few of the incredible routines that Luke teaches in this new book. Every routine is accompanied by his suggestion techniques as applied to that specific piece, as well as his full performance script, plus many additional touches and ideas.

His sensational *Out Of This World* is taken to an even more impossible level with just five un-gimmicked ESP cards. He has shared his personal Book Test, his acclaimed work on PK Touches, his thinking on playing cards in mentalism and so much more. He teaches the techniques of Anchoring and specifically how to apply them to magic performances.

By blending up-to-the-minute psychological techniques with some classic conjuring methodology, Luke has created cutting-edge Mentalism and Magick effects that will have your audiences believing that you can do anything! Going far beyond the material in his first release, *7 Deceptions*, this new book really does teach you the "Building Blocks" of becoming an expert at previously jealously guarded techniques of suggestion and mind control.

But don't take our word for it; read below for what the pros have had to say about Luke Jeremy's new work:

"Luke Jermy's Building Blocks is a brilliant and exhilarating blueprint of magic's tomorrow. Not only a collection of stunning audience-centered wonders, but also a clear and detailed guide to constructing your own. Buy it now! It will change the way you do magic forever." -- Caleb Strange

"Luke is one of those rare individuals who brings a unique touch of originality to everything he does. Great thinking and great routines! With fresh presentations like these, I look forward to the future of our craft." -- Steve Banachek

"Unless you want to be left behind, I suggest you get Luke's works. Luke applies Wonder Words, suggestion and psychology in a manner which makes all of us who have gone before very proud indeed. Luke's applications are a must-have for all who would perform the 'new magic' and mentalism sweeping the minds and hearts of the public and modern peers. If you wish to continue the journey made popular by some of us, then Luke's offerings are almost required." -- Kenton Knepper

"Building Blocks is simply SENSATIONAL and I like it very much. If you want to enhance the power of your tricks into real wonders or miracles, YOU NEED A COPY OF THIS BOOK! It contains techniques, which you have never dreamt of, but the best thing is: they really work! I recommend this book highly to every serious performer of our art. It is worth its weight in gold, pure gold!" -- Ted Lesley

"We have all long wanted to use the power of suggestion in our mentalism routines, but have not quite figured out exactly how to use it. We need want no longer; Luke Jermay is here to fill our desires! Study this book and become the performer you have always dreamed of being!" -- Millard Longman

"Luke Jermay's new book, BUILDING BLOCKS, is the kind of book I love! In it you will learn techniques and philosophies that will set you apart from the rest. This is the kind of material our art is all about. It is crammed with worthwhile ideas that deserve deep study and practical effects that will stagger. I congratulate Luke for a great contribution!" - Richard Osterlind

"I'm blown away by the material in this manuscript. These are techniques and strategies that will cause people to FEEL the experience of real magic." -- Nathan W. Kranzo

"From what I've read of Luke Jermay's latest, Building Blocks, it contains, some ground breaking material. I'd recommend it for those looking to heighten their performance." -- Ford Kross

REVIEW:

Well-produced hardbound book from Peter Nardi. The “theory” section mainly consists in a practical upgrade of several suggestion tools described in Banachek’s [Psychological Subtleties](#), coupled with NLP linguistics of [Wonder Words](#) fame.

The second part describes original bizarre/mental effects along the lines of [7 Deceptions](#), not always close-up “workers” but often thought-provoking and inspiring.

OVERALL RATING: very good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=52676&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 80: The Extraction – Mark Ghia / Kevin Dunn

AD:

Finally something new in magic. The Extraction is an ultra-visual appearance of a gem, 1/2"-1", using any glass and REAL water. The effect is not difficult to do but requires careful study. This is for the **advanced** performer who wants to show his audience real magic. The stone is a solid object you can remove from the water but if you wish to give it to your volunteer you should switch it with one of the stones we supply you with. Set time is only 5 minutes maximum for a performance. After it is set you have up to a full 30 minutes before you have to perform the effect. No angle limitations! You receive enough supplies for 100 performances and detailed 25 page manual!!! (*not recommended for table hopping, best for one on one performances.*)

REVIEW:

Truly bizarre product from Kymystical Magic. The set-up is a devastating experience and goes against the basic rules defined by marriage counselors. After spending a Sunday messing with chemicals in the kitchen, I prepared a few gimmicks and waited for the right occasion to perform the effect... I was able to do it only once, before the gimmicks deteriorated.

Highly original stuff, looking for PATIENT performers.

OVERALL RATING: probably very good (?)

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=56937&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 79: Card on Ceiling – Michael Ammar

AD:

The **Card on Ceiling** has proven to be one of the most impressive and talked about card effects in the entire realm of card magic!

A signed card is lost in the deck, which is then sealed with rubber bands.

The deck is tossed up to the ceiling (as high as a 40 foot ceiling will work!).

The deck falls back down, but the **signed card sticks!**

The fact that the card remains on display high above the heads of all who pass by, for months, forces people to notice and comment on it!

It could be called the "perfect effect" because of the clarity of what happens; and the reputation it helps earn for the person performing it!

The **Card on Ceiling** is one of Michael Ammar's favorite effects. This one effect has earned him more notoriety than any other single effect he performs. It is a real reputation maker.

Michael's method, along with a special formulation developed by Palmer Tilden makes this the best, easiest, and most sure fire way to put a card on the ceiling!

In addition to the Card on Ceiling, you will receive as a bonus the fabulous Coin on Ceiling.

Practical, commercial magic that you will use!

REVIEW:

Another classic Signature Piece from Ammar. You get a large amount of the necessary “secret gimmick”, and a few colored sheets with general instructions. The card moves described are very basic, and you will need to know better card techniques.

The effect can only be performed in specific settings (unless you want to expose part of the working), but it’s well worth the wait...

The only card trick I do.

OVERALL RATING: very good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=24264&forum=2>

HN Magic Review 78: Floating Bill – Michael Ammar

AD:

This is the **Floating Dollar Bill** that made Michael Ammar famous!

Michael says, "When I was booked for *The Tonight Show*, I knew this effect would get me rebooked! NOW, with this **New Elastic Hookup**, it has never been easier. The **Constant Hookup** is perfect for repeat work! This virtually IT can stretch up to 400% of it's length, **repeatedly!** Amazing!

It's already separated, colored and comes in a convenient size for travel.

Included are tips for increasing invisibility, lighting considerations and methods for securing the ends.

Let this wonderful routine make you famous, too!

REVIEW:

Not an “impromptu, anytime, anyplace” routine, as some ruthless dealers want us to believe, but a true reputation maker in the right contexts. The psychology involved is very deep and the effect IMO surpasses all other impromptu floating effects.

Ammar recently added a few extra touches (and refuted this gimmick!) in the third volume of the “[Easy to Master Invisible Thread Miracles](#)” series.

OVERALL RATING: very good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=56936&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 75: Easy to Master Invisible Thread Miracles videos/DVD Vol. 1, 2, 3 – Michael Ammar

AD:

There is more powerful potential in just a few feet of invisible thread than almost anything else in magic. This is magic that becomes the stuff of legends. No matter what type of magic you perform, from the purest sleight of hand to the largest grand illusions, this is the type of magic that creates conversations and reputations. People vividly remember the moment they saw something levitated and animated just inches away from their eyes.

Continuing in the Easy to Master tradition, this new set of videos is organized in a very structured fashion, taking the viewer from simple animations with short lengths of thread that can be easily set up and managed through intermediate effects that are a bit more involved and finally ending up with elaborate effects that are truly mind-bending.

Each video in this series also contains valuable supporting information on lighting, concealment, and theory that will stimulate your thinking well beyond the featured magic.

Volume 1 contents:

Section One - Introducing Elastic Thread

Section Two - Accessing the Threads

Section Three - Magic With Invisible Elastic

Tahoe Tessie and the Magic Postcard; The Rising Business Card; Whirling Business Card; Dan Harlan's Financial Attraction; Ammar's Portable, Permanent Wallet Hookup

Section Four - Finn Jon's Elastic Loops

Phenomenon Fork; Finn Jon's Bill That Falls Up; The Floating Bill; Electrostatic Straw; Things That Affect Thread Visibility

Section Five - Visible but Hidden Threads

Stefan Schuster's Self-Folding Bill with Kicker, featuring Ammar's Self-Contained Wallet Hookup; Acrobatic Matchbox

Section Six - The Traditional Reel

Knot Absolutely Instant; Knot Automatically Undone; Clearly Penetrated Mike Stand

Section Seven - James George Interview

Comparing Every Available I.T.R.; Care and Management

Volume Two

We begin with amazing ideas and applications of the James George Invisible Thread Reel, which includes marvelously deceptive methods of passing a solid hoop over and around floating objects that are marvelously deceptive. Also included are methods for working with threads from 6 inches to twenty feet long that create magic that people will talk about for a lifetime.

Section 1 – Magic Using the I. T. R.

Finn Jon's Mystery Nut and Bolt ala I. T. R

The Chop Cup Application

Dave Nelson's Dollar Bill Flight

I. T. R. Floating Bill

The Perfect Practice Hookup

Open Face Hookup

Z Grip to Lock the Thread

Hoop Pass

Rotating Hoop Pass

Bloom's Balancing Card

Robert Henry's Ashra Coin

I. T. R. Whirling Card

Section 2 – The One-Hand Hookup

Al Baker's Erectile Bill

Socrate's Personal Chi Power

Section 3 – The LeClair Hookup

Floating Bill

The Whirling Card

Section 4 – The One Point Hookup

The Animated Straw

The Coin in Beer

Baker's Card from Hat

Whirling Card

Baker's Ring on Pencil

Section 5 – John Kennedy's

Stealth Retractor

Ammar's Threading the Needle

Care and Feeding of the Stealth Retractor

Rising Business Cards

Rising Card

Self-Turning Page

Section 6 – Bonus Guest Star James George

The Floating Pencil

Tips & Theory
Why Threads Break and How To Avoid
Practicing with Threads
Controlling Your Space
The Hierarchy of Astonishment

Volume Three

This is the real work on storing, transporting and accessing the invisible threads you'll use for any type of effect. The majority of this information is being revealed here for the first time in any format, and represents ideal solutions for almost any close-up, stand-up, corporate, bar or restaurant performer.

You'll also find sources for invisible thread well worth the price of the video to anyone seriously interested in performing magic with thread. You'll see what types of thread are strongest, ranked in order of strength according to similar dimensions, and how to separate and secure individual strands of the finest invisible thread.

Some of the information featured here has previously been sold individually for large sums of money. You'll learn the exact method Ammar used to perform the Floating Bill on The Tonight Show, as well as the Steve Fearson Hookup, which creates what some of our greatest minds have called the most amazing magic they've ever seen!

Performance

Floating Bill
The Super String Theory

Section One - Thread Strength According to Similar Diameters

Section Two - Securing the Ends, Separating Individual Strands

Section Three –Storing and Transporting

Simple Playing Card
Finn Jon System
John Kennedy's Z-Webs & Mini-Z-Webs
The Pin & Straw System
Sticky Mat Solution

John Haar's Deck Gimmick
Clear Plastic Sticks
Lifesaver Holders
Wine Bottle Hookups—Corks, Ribbons, Clear Tubes
Under-Bar Bobbins
Mike-Stand Holders
Section Four – The Horizontal Two-Point Hookup Explanation

The Floating Bill
The Super String Theory
Section Five –The Steve Fearson Hookup

The Floating Lifesaver
James George's Floating Spinning Ball

REVIEW:

A complete treatise on IT work – even though the electronic gimmicks are not fully considered (Ammar only deals with John Kennedy's Stealth Retractor). The highlight of the tape IMO is the updated version of his [Floating Bill](#) routine: interestingly, the author does not use the gimmick he sold along with the routine for fifteen years...

I felt asleep a couple of times during the long explanations on accessing and transportation, but this is probably due to my poor metabolism.

A no-smoking version of Steve Fearson's Floating Cigarette, performed with a Polo Mint and a different set-up (appropriate for bald people!) is also worth mentioning.

OVERALL RATING: very good (and very bad for exposure)

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=1770&forum=111>

HN Magic Review 71: ESR (Electronic Slow Rewinding Invisible Thread Reel) - Magic Shop M

AD:

This is the next level in the evolution of IT magic! With the ESR, you can not only perform all your favorite IT effects, you can perform them better!

Imagine adding slow-motion animation to your favorite floating or psychic effects!

Examples:

Borrow a dollar bill, crumble it into a ball, then cause it to float in air. Raise a hand, with fingers wide apart, and whenever you want, the bill floats up to your hand!

Place a nut on a bolt then cover with a glass. With both of your hands visible, and no movement on your part, the nut slowly unscrews and falls off the bolt. This is repeated, then everything can be examined!

For a psychic effect, borrow a pen and lay it on the table. Concentrate and the pen moves towards you!

REVIEW:

This electronic ITR allows you to remain motionless throughout the levitation (the switch could also be used to stop your pulse...); it is better IMHO than Stefan Schutzer's Ultimate Float Controller (UFC), which needed constant body movements to operate.

The cons: the gimmick is longer than a pack of cigarette, and you will need a jacket to conceal it. It is kind of noisy in the retraction phase – loud patter may be necessary in real close-up situations.

Sold with 2 types of IT and basic instructions.

OVERALL RATING: very good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=52209&forum=55>

HN Magic Review 55: Hypno Heat - Viking Magic

AD: not sold anymore, due to inflated political correctness; it's "that m*****y trick".

REVIEW:

Also called "Hot and Cold" in the sixties. Comes in two forms: liquid (extremely toxic) and in pills (very toxic). I have been using the pills version for more than 15 years now, so far so gHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH

Seriously, the solid version is not 100%, but occasional failures increase the credibility of the effect. In the right hands, it's a "killer".

OVERALL RATING: very good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=38652&forum=82>

HN Magic Review 54: Sussurus Arcanus – Docc Hilford

AD:

A secret source of information from Docc Hilford! Susurrus Arcanus means secret whisper, and the subject is SR.

On this exceptional tape, Docc gives you a complete tutorial, including practice sessions, and caps the whole thing off with a killer effect that is, to use an oft abused label, a true reputation maker. He tells you when to use this technique, and when not to use it. This is the best and most complete treatment of the topic ever published.

Yes, we are blushing. After all, if the others had done a good job, everyone would be using SR. If you have encountered SR before and dismissed it as either too obvious or too hard, it's because the earlier discussions were sketchy and not based on the kind of experience that Docc has with it. If you want a valuable and useful technique for discovering unknown information, you need this tape. This is a limited edition tape. One can be yours for just \$34.95.

REVIEW:

Not sure I should post this one on the Internet. Not that the product is outstanding (usual overpriced item from the Floras), but SR is such a wonderful and underused concept.

The tape deals with basic shapes, numbers, letters and drawings. Docc uses a chalk and a board – it's really harder with a pencil, in real life situations. The "Numbers" section is the most detailed, but still simplistic (BIG problems with 5...): I often feel the need for a back up.

The only tape entirely devoted to this principle, as far as I know.

OVERALL RATING: very good

HN

Read/post comments: I had to delete this one because it was moved from the restricted forum, sorry.

HN Magic Review 51: Classic Renditions video/DVD Vol. 3 – Michael Ammar

AD:

This is the third volume in the Classic Renditions series. Each video in the series focuses intensely on one single subject. Volume 3 is on The TT Bill Switch

Classic Renditions is considered to be among the best teaching tapes available anywhere. On these tapes, Michael uses his "Super Practice Sessions", and John Cornelius makes a guest appearance.

The Bill Switch, once mastered, will allow you to turn \$1's into \$100's, turn money inside out, and perform many other transpositions, restorations and transformations! This video will teach you how to perform one of the most requested tricks by laymen: "The \$100 Bill Switch" - turning their \$1 into a \$100.

Michael has performed this on TV under unbelievable camera scrutiny - the bill is visible at all times and yet the secret move is neither seen nor suspected!

As a bonus, John Cornelius teaches his "Borrowed Bill" routine.

REVIEW:

A short video, but still the best rendition of the Koslowski Bill Switch While the filler section on how your hands should look like is a bit boring (Ammar says it was inspired from Michelangelo's paintings...), the moves are explained in great details, and from several angles, as per the standard L&L "Super Practice sessions".

The bonus routine, featuring John Cornelius at the Magic Castle, is truly funny and should be studied for a variety of reasons...

OVERALL RATING: very good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=37601&forum=111>

HN Magic Review 50: Classic Renditions video/DVD Vol. 2 – Michael Ammar

AD:

This series focuses intensely on one specific subject. This is volume 2 of the Classic Renditions series. The subject is "Rubber Band Magic".

Considered to be among the best teaching tapes anywhere, Michael employs his "Super Practice Session" - where you can practice along with him, over and over again, guided by his hands on a blue screen, while Baroque music plays.

Rubber Band magic is fantastic, because it can be (or appear to be) completely impromptu in social situations. This is the kind of material Michael always chooses to do when he's socializing and someone asks "can you show me a trick?"

Michael worked with David Copperfield on a rubber band effect for his 'Great Wall of China' special. Later, David claimed more people called in about the rubber band effect than they did about the Great Wall!

The video teaches in great detail three classic rubber band effects:

THE CRAZYMANS HANDCUFFS

A rubber band is stretched between your forefinger and thumb on each hand. You link one with the other, give a tug and the bands appear to just melt right through one another. You repeat from a few different angles, and conclude with allowing the spectator to hold one of the bands and you melt your band through right under their nose!

TRAVELING CASH

A 'rubber ladder' is formed with two stretched rubber bands. A spectator wraps a folded dollar bill around the top strand, and holds on. Then, one by one, the money jumps from the top down, one strand at a time.

THE BROKEN & RESTORED RUBBER BAND

A single rubber band is broken, the outstretched fully to display, then put right back together again! Michael often concluded a rubber band sequence with this one.

And there is a bonus section by John Cornelius.

REVIEW:

One of the few magic videos with a decent music...

Typical Ammar stuff: well-produced, average presentations, superior attention to details (check out the essential quote from Erdnase!). His explanation of the Crazy Man's Handcuffs is in my opinion a lot better than Harlan's handling, and the "practice sections" make the effects really easy to learn.

The video also includes John Cornelius' Vanishing Nickel, previously marketed as "Fickle Nickel".

OVERALL RATING: very good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=37600&forum=111>

HN Magic Review 47: Band of the Hand – Docc Hilford

AD:

Murderous Mentalism That Will Kill Your Audience!

This bizarre booklet contains five of Docc's strongest effects, straight from his personal arsenal. These are tricks he's performed for live audiences for years.

Band of the Hand is a murderous group of five incredibly different and original mental effects, far removed from the "I know what you're thinking" type of mental tricks. Contains:

- **Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper** - a complete seance in your pocket!
- **A Study in Scarlet** - Take your audience through the dark in search of a murderer with the light of a single match!
- **Swamp Water** - Demonstrate control over pure evil contained in a jar of water which reveals things no one knows!
- **Nightmare Coins** - Turn a dream into a tangible nightmare that you can hold!
- **Murder by Mail** - Prove that you possess powers that can actually kill someone! WARNING: You may not want to perform this effect, it's too strong!

"The Nightmare Coins routine has found a permanent place in my close-up show." -Allen Zingg-Editor of Vibrations

"I can't perform Murder by Mail anymore-it's just too strong!" -Jim Magus

"Docc, Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper, take people to the edge of danger and bring them back safely!" -Tony Andruzzi

REVIEW:

Docc Hilford at his best. All the methods and psychological subtleties are thoroughly detailed, and are worth reading even if you will not perform the effects. Contents:

- a high-tech psychic bell you already own;
- a childish presentation of an old Punx idea with your box(es) of matches;
- a version of Wilbur Kattner's 1945 Prolix Spirit (no credits. I ask: WHY????);
- a c/s coin equivoque;
- a macabre Headline Prediction.

OVERALL RATING: very good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=22807&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 43: Folding Bunny Bill – Robert E. Neale

AD:

What a great giveaway piece to leave with your clients. Just borrow a dollar bill and without any cutting or tearing, you fold the bill into a top hat. Hold it up and squeeze the top hat. Up pops the head of a little bunny. The entire origami fold is done with a single dollar bill. Interesting for them to watch you fold and something they will keep forever.

REVIEW:

Wonderful little origami, it always gets a smile. This cheap booklet was published by Magic Inc. in the '60s, but if you want updated handlings, the full presentation and Paul Harris' tips you may prefer Mr. Neale's big book, "Folding Money Fooling". For you video guys, the effect is also described (without any patter) in "[Celebration of Sides](#)" – the easiest way to learn the trick.

OVERALL RATING: very good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=32767&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 25: Miracles of Suggestion – Kenton Knepper

AD:

Kenton is well known for his work on suggestion and the application of suggestion to magic and mentalism. In this work, Kenton reveals simple and profound examples of suggestion in real performance situations.

Friends are a little disappointed that Kenton gave up this much inside information at this price. But Kenton hopes this booklet will excite more performers into considering how the power of suggestion may be applied to their work.

To quote one performer: *"This book is full of nothing less than sheer miracles. How dare you tell others, but thank you for allowing me to read this!"*

There is more than mere theory. It is truly the practical application of miraculous principles. The most timid performer will find ideas and effects he can use, as will the more adventurous sort. The more you will try, the more convinced you will become.

Imagine appearing as if you have erased a thought from a spectator's mind - all by a few Svengali hand gestures ! Or dream of forcing a person to choose a particular card, even though they get to shuffle, cut and choose a card all by their own hand. It is EASY, but devious, and yes, almost miraculous.

In this booklet you will also find Kenton's ingenious work on "Equivoque" or "Magician's Choice". You will also learn "The Subconscious Book Test" and how Kenton's finger rings bend on the table while he is doing a "bending" effect. All of this and MORE.

Here is the work Kenton is famous for, and now made more direct than ever. You will also get a sampling of the incredible **Luke Jermay** which

Banachek has said is next in a continuing line of the Kenton Knepper, Derren Brown tradition. In other words, he'll blow you away!
Now for the BEST part. You get all of this and more in under thirty intense pages for a ridiculously low price for what this booklet contains. Get it ALL and do MIRACLES if you DARE for only...

REVIEW:

This remarkable little booklet integrates the [Wonder Words](#) tapes for what concern the suggestion issues and provides further thoughts and applications. I don't perform anything out of the manuscript, but several ideas and fine points can be applied to other effects.

Even the hyped card filler (using a svengali deck) contains several insights on force procedures.

For those interested in the booktest described in the ad, forget it for close-up settings...

OVERALL RATING: very good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=6588&forum=15>

HN Magic Review 20: Weerd Enough – Kenton Knepper

AD:

This work contains six of Kenton's most unusual effects and methods. Previously unreleased except to a private few, these concepts will challenge you. Far from the "ordinary" this manuscript details:

How to find a card by "channeling" a spectator.

How to make a problem "vanish" for a spectator - they actually SEE this happen - while alone in the privacy of their own home. Powerful magic

mixed with an appropriate visual metaphor. Perform a routine in which words and scent are the actual method.

Make vanished coins or charms reappear inside a lit candle.

Learn how the legendary crop circle diagrams are used for psychological "readings". All the needed artwork is included. This alone could have been sold for more than the cost of the entire manuscript. More (of course) including further effect and presentations, more extended and diverse applications, and new gut-level essays.

It is little wonder that many have awaited Kenton's release of this "Weerd" material. It took the ending of Docc Hilford's "Weerd Weekend" to get Kenton to divulge this secret work to others. A very select few have been in the know - as they paid Kenton to create some of this work for their own performances! Now these often startling effects and strange but magical methods can be YOURS.

This manuscript may be a tribute to unusual and "Weerd" magic, but do not let that confuse you. These remarkable methods are applicable to many diverse effects and routines. Even if you are not interested in "Weerd" magic, you are bound to find these ideas to be of unique, and inspiring value. Besides, some of it is just flat out FUN.

If you do close-up, there are things in here you simply must have. If you do mentalism, be prepared for some amazing ideas that you will use, and that will challenge you too. If you do "readings", Kenton's "Crop Circle Readings" has been a secret gem for many years. Now complete with the artwork, you can make your own at a fraction of what it would cost you otherwise.

With this entire lineup - and more - you are bound to find something truly useful and DIFFERENT. Of course, if all you wanted the same old boring thing, you probably wouldn't be at our website.

As one person privy to this material put it, "Read this and be in awe". WE say, "You're sure to find some items of unique interest in this one". We'd hate to be immodest, after all.

REVIEW:

Great over-hyped book, I found a gem there (the Docc Hilford's holiday memories) that "went straight into my act", as professional quoters would say. All-round suggestions coupled with an arguable magic kicker.

The book also contains some interesting "Dorian Gray's" applications of an item you can purchase for a few dollars in sewing shops (and about ten times its price through other dealers...)

Other effects include F##### playing cards and other laminated items – sorry I removed those from my memory.

OVERALL RATING: very good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=30691&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 12: Theater of the Mind – Barrie Richardson

AD:

Hermetic Press has always taken pride in producing only the very best books on mentalism: Waters's *Mind, Myth & Magick*, Lesley's *Paramiracles* and works by Phil Goldstein. For years we wanted to bring out a book by Barrie Richardson, and when we did it was an instant success, selling out three printings within a year. In a recent poll, *Theater of the Mind* showed up on a number of lists of the ten best magic books of all time!

1999 recipient of the *Psychic Entertainers Association* award for creativity, and with over fifty years of professional performance behind him, Barrie Richardson has gathered together 53 of his best mental routines, most with complete presentations, for this large volume of baffling experiences. In *Theater of the Mind* you will find page after page of fresh, practical material, tested and perfected before thousands

of audiences; astonishing feats that use only ordinary items, and few of them; entertaining mental experiments that involve the whole audience, that pack small and play big, that exploit a devilish combination of simplicity and cleverness. What you will discover in Barrie Richardson's *Theater of the Mind* is a wealth of professional material at a pauper's price. 320 pages in hardcover.

REVIEW:

Big book from Stephen Minch's Hermetic Press, you will surely find something to use. At least I did, courtesy of "Pencil Pusher".

There are regrettably a lot of magic tricks with cards, envelopes, billets etc. which constitute the bulk of the book – do not expect cutting edge techniques or revolutionary mentalism methods.

Interesting solution for the Berglas' "Any card at any number" problem, even though I would have liked the author to lay out all the cards arrangements, instead of leaving part of the work to the reader!

OVERALL RATING: very good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=30588&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 9: Peek Performances – Richard Busch

AD:

The ultimate treatise on securing secret information: center tears, book tests, card peeks, billets and psychological forces; even an impromptu Mother Of All Book Tests.

"Peak Performances is a must-have! The most creative and original look at billets and peeks in years!"

-Ted Karmilovich, Jr., Creator of the Mother Of All Book Tests

"If you want the real work, take the time to carefully read what's inside."

-Ford Kross, Psychic Entertainer and Hypnotist, Author of *Suggestive Mentalism*

"In a clear, concise and easy to read manner, Mr. Busch covers one of the most important subjects to our art...the secret gathering of information and, just as important, the revelation of this information to our audiences. No props, no convoluted plot line or long sequenced, boring tricks, just clear, direct, to the point effects that look as close to real mind reading as one can possibly get. This is a book designed to give you lesson after lesson to be read, digested and developed, year after year."

-Paul Alberstat, Canada's Leading Mentalist

REVIEW:

Heavy, weighty book from Magical Inspirations. It includes:

- a wonderful quote from Eliza Dolittle: "Moves, moves, moves, I'm so sick of moves!"
- billets work, center tears, booktests, card moves ("that even Ford Kross could do" – not so sure about that...), watch effects, NW, one-ahead subtleties etc.
- the real secret behind the Psychic Entertainers Association's acronym.

Too much physical manipulation in most of the cards methods for the "discerning mentalist", but also sprinkles of hypnotherapeutic touches peppered throughout the book.

OVERALL RATING: very good – maybe not for the beginners.

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=30586&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 5: Seven Deceptions – Luke Jermay

AD:

"This Material Is So Fantastic - I Bought The Rights To It!" - Kenton Knepper

I have never paid for someone else's ideas to publish, and I may never do so again. But Luke's "7 Deceptions" is in a class all its own.

Steve Banachek, Docc Hilford, myself and a few select others have made additions to Luke's incredible work. Here are a few of the effects from this ground-breaking book:

Stop your own pulse without gimmicks. Now the SHOCKER...

Stop a spectator's pulse without touching the spectator. No stooges. Another member of the audience confirms this. You can even apparently change the pulse rate of the entire audience! This is the REAL inside work. An instant classic from which reputations have and will continue to be made.

A spectator looks at a playing card. You cause the spectator to forget this card, and they cannot remember it. Included in this full explanation is how to cause people to forget their name temporarily and much more. Yes, you CAN do it!

A spectator's actual phobia is seen to go away through a magical, psychological event. The spectator takes home a special paper to remind them of this dramatic change. Is it real magic?

Psychological symbolism at work? How does it happen? Your spectators will be impressed - perhaps for a lifetime.

Two different spectators see two different words on one ungimmicked piece of paper without a single switch. You may also add to this, causing a third spectator to read a third word. A fascinating principle explained in full. Many new ideas will come from this one.

During a palm reading, the lines on the spectator's palm apparently move and twist on their own. A stunning combination of linguistics, psychology and neurology.

REVIEW:

If we forget all the hypes of the Wonder Wizards site and the previous “[Eight Maneuver](#)” of Mr. Jermy, the book is brilliant. The influence of Kenton Knepper is always very noticeable, and a few effects are originally inspiring, in the mental/bizarre/”weerd” categories.

The Butterfly Billet (strategically positioned in the book...) offers a strong audience-centered effect, if you spend enough time to prepare it.

My personal favorite is the pulse-stopping trick approach – I am combining this effect with the watch ideas provided in Knepper’s “[Sorcerer Series](#)” vol. 3.

OVERALL RATING: very good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=19035&forum=110>

Good

I consider these magic products worthwhile, but with some limitations: you may want to investigate further on the matter before purchasing them and insulting me afterwards.

HN Magic Review 107: Kolossal Killer – Kenton Knepper

AD:

Kolossal Killer has long been one of Kenton's Knepper's favorite creations!

Unfortunately, versions sell for over one hundred dollars. Not any more...What is Kolossal Killer?

Spectators just **NAME** a playing card, and you have the correct card in your wallet. **YOU ARE ALWAYS CORRECT!** It is the ultimate card 'out' for Close-up work. A spectator can mess with you all they want - **RELAX** - you can still produce a playing card from your *normal wallet*, as absolute proof that you knew their card all along. Kolossal Killer has become a classic piece of mentalism as well - used by such pros as Larry Becker and Jeff McBride. It's a full-blown stage effect, with nothing but the minds of the audience and your everyday billfold.

NO Forces NO Gaffed Wallet NO Sleight of Hand NO 52 Card Index (Not 26 cards either)

. . . Whatever they name, you are right. Simple, direct, awe-inspiring magic and mentalism - the kind you have come to expect from Kenton Knepper.

PLUS With this - Kenton's original version - you can do effects even the expensive gaffed wallet versions simply cannot do. **AND** you will receive complete routines, right out of Kenton's act. This couldn't be easier or more diabolical. Only a very select few have been privy to Kenton's original version of Killer - until now. **THIS IS YOUR CHANCE.** Get the complete original work with all the devious touches

in this manuscript (just add your own billfold and cards). Forever more you will have a truly groundbreaking reputation maker, not 'up your sleeve', but in your own wallet.

REVIEW:

I don't know about you, but I am becoming allergic to the Wonder Wizards hypes...

The prepared wallet is not examinable, and this could be a problem for magicians. The impact can be strong, although I suggest you do not use Kolossal Killer as an effect in itself, but as an out for "thought-of cards" routines – in fact, the booklet includes the excellent effect "Truly Invisible", already published in the accompanying notes of [Wonder Words](#) vol. 2.

The manuscript is very thin and should have included the ideas described in the sequel (Killer Konceptions), which takes the basic effect to new heights. But I guess that 2 booklets sell more than 1 book.

OVERALL RATING: good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=27938&forum=2>

HN Magic Review 106: Visual Impossible Penetration (VIP) - Mike Powers

AD:

V.I.P. stands for Visual-Impossible-Penetration. This is THE handling for the cap in the bottle. Other methods require that you use a specific type of beer bottle. With V.I.P. virtually any type of bottle can be used and the spectator holds the bottle as you drive though the side of the bottle (see picture). Also, with V.I.P. you not only get that "special something", you also get the V.I.P. took kit, which allows you to set up a bottle in about 2 minutes.

You can give the bottle away when you're done because you can set up another in 2 minutes!

REVIEW:

“Set up a bottle in about 2 minutes” MY A##. The setup is in fact a long and draining process (if you want to leave the bottle to the spectator, and let her closely examine it), but the “prop” provided is simple and functional.

The production value of Mr. Power’s booklets is one of the worst I know (folded A4 pages, often stapled in the wrong order – [Holey Terror II](#) also had the same problem) but the trick is very workable and can have a strong impact in staged close-up situations. Of course it can’t be done “impromptu” at a friend’s home, since you have to use your own prepared bottle (non examinable before the effect).

Concerning the moves, the author mentions an alternative method using a well-known gimmick you may already own, which works much better than the technique originally described, and leaves you completely clean at the end.

OVERALL RATING: good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=70576&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 100: Mini Rabbit From Hat - Dick Barry

AD:

A miniature (one inch) top hat is shown completely empty. A spectator reaches inside to prove it is truly empty. The hat is placed open end down on your EMPTY palm. After making a magical gesture the hat is lifted, a small BUNNY RABBIT HAS MAGICALLY APPEARED. EVERYTHING CAN BE EXAMINED. THIS BAFFLES THE BEST OF

THEM! The next time someone says, "CAN YOU PULL A RABBIT FROM A HAT?" ANSWER WITH THIS CLOSE-UP MIRACLE.

REVIEW:

This one uses magic props (a black plastic top hat and a sponge rabbit), and should therefore be banned from my current repertoire. However, it is a cute little quickie that always gets "oooh, aaaah!!" from the ladies (no, not THAT kind of "oooh, aaaah!!")

The props are very well made and the price is right, even though I would have preferred a slightly smaller size for easier concealment.

It's just a simple, innocuous magic trick, but you know the saying: if they applaud, keep it...

OVERALL RATING: good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=71238&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 99: Holey Terror II – Mike Powers

AD:

Just when you thought it was safe! **Holey Terror II** -- The sequel. The original created a sensation when it was released a few years ago.

The effect is straightforward and powerful.

A card is chosen from a shuffled deck. A **hole** is punched at each corner of the signed card. Place your thumb over one of the holes and **move it to another corner!** The spectator feels the holes to make sure they are real (and they are!).

Now, **another hole is moved to the same corner!** Again the holes are felt to be real. This is WEIRD!

Finally, you **visibly move the last hole** over with the others, ending with **all four holes in the same corner!** The spectator feels the holes one last time, then removes the card from the deck.

His signature is still on the face of the card!! You can give him the card as a souvenir.

Holy Terror II is a single deck method! Self contained and really easy to do. No pulls, magnets, etc. **The card is signed.** Comes complete with everything, even the hole punch and special Bicycle cards. Nothing else need ever be purchased, except more cards!

REVIEW:

This is a F***** card trick – enough said...

Still, it gets surprising reactions from the lay audience, and is worth your time and consideration. If you are ready to carry around your deck of playing cards and a regular hole puncher, and perform a series of knuckle busting card moves (AAAARGH!!!)

I obviously prefer Michael Close's Pothole Trick (done with a business card), but if you really have to perform card tricks, this one is recommended.

OVERALL RATING: may be good for you

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=53832&forum=2>

HN Magic Review 98: Peek Encores – Richard Busch

AD:

An in-depth treatise on four revolutionary billets and their many adaptations for the mature, modern mentalist who desires state-of-the-art, in-full-view methods of immediate, invisible information

acquisition. No switching, no duplicates, no stealing, and no tearing! Ultra-clean, live-time, instantly accessed information ... at your fingertips.

With the help of clear text on 110 big pages (on the best 32 pound laser paper) and a whopping 175 photos, you will enjoy this format! It is very user friendly. For the voyeur in you, Peek Encores is loaded with the sequential, step-by-step information that will update and surpass previous handlings. It is a breakthrough billet bonanza for mentalists who can no longer afford to handle billets like a magician!

What People Are Saying:

"Busch's Billet may well be the best billet peek ever to see print!"
-Doug Dymant

" ... It works like nothing else I've ever tried in billet work. It has been improved beyond belief. All I can say is what so many others have already said ... you're a genius! You're the greatest!"
-Larry Becker

"Just finished reading Richard Busch's newest work, PEEK ENCORES which firmly establishes Mr. Busch as THE authority on the secret gathering of information via the billet peek. I enjoyed the format of PEEK ENCORES, found it well produced, and even easier to understand than its predecessor. Filled with copious photographs, its 110 pages not only make his devious creations easy to follow, but also give you a flavor of Richard the person...a delightful mensch with a love of Mentalism!!!"
-Bruce Bernstein

"Magnificent! Peek Encores is more than just a sequel to Peak Performances. Rather than continuing from where PP left off, Peek Encores explores new territory for the serious Billet worker. There are at least two ideas I put to use immediately, and several others I intend to explore more thoroughly when I have the time. The handlings are well-taught with literally hundreds of photographs and explicit instructions. Good job, Richard; you've done it again!"
-John Riggs

" ... a monument in mentalism literature."
-Liz and Leondo

REVIEW:

This self-produced, spiral bound book only contains 4 peeks: a great version of Al Mann/Millard Longman's Acidus Novus, and 3 variations of moves previously described in Peek Performances (Zen, Zorro and Reader's Billets). All the moves are explained in great details, with plenty of photographs.

The first peek, called "Busch's Billet", is the cleanest I know (I don't own Alain Bellon's Obsidian Oblique, to be honest) and was worth the price of the book to me: it is truly done at the fingertips, and allows the participant to write on half of the billet.

The other 3 moves look like fillers: they should have been inserted (in the worst case scenario) in Peek Performances. Seems like an unnecessary way to beef up the book and justify its price.

OVERALL RATING: Good (enough now)

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=67135&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 95: Mentalism Lecture Notes – Ian Rowland

AD:

The Mentalism lecture notes are professionally printed and bound to a high standard, covering 5 complete routines from my professional repertoire as well as a complete explanation of what I call 'Preludes' cards. I've taken a lot of time and trouble over these notes to make sure they are worth buying and good value. They are well written and illustrated, the detail is comprehensive, and the material is all practical, tried-and-tested stuff you really can use.

In detail:

Light Metal: this is the best, cleanest, most baffling and funniest 'test conditions' demonstration of metal-bending you will ever present. A member of the audience checks your hands and the spoons right at the start (no extra spoons are added later!), and also checks every aspect of this amazing 'psychic' feat as it unfolds. Yet a freely selected solid steel spoon is seen to slowly, visibly and openly warp, bend and even break while held gently at the fingertips.

It is beautiful, it is baffling and it is also huge fun. This is just about my most-prized routine, and it is a sure-fire applause getter. I know you see that a lot in magic ads, but in this case it's true. I have never known an audience not to break into spontaneous applause at the climax of this routine, and when you see how carefully it is structured you will see why. Not hard to do, but calls for some presentational flair and confidence. (I perform this item on my 'Mind Power' lecture show video - see the non-magi Items To Buy page).

Thought Flash: a target is randomly thought of, and you cause an image of that target to appear on a previously blank piece of photographic film. This is the easiest and most practical of all 'mental photography' routines: you don't need a camera of any kind, it is totally future proof (do it no matter what they invent next), there are no consumables apart from a small piece of flash paper, and you can carry it around with you anywhere. The target can be anything you want: famous person, famous place, sports star, a selected brand or product... whatever.

No gimmicks in the hand, no chemicals, no timing, no double-exposures. It is a fun, thoroughly baffling routine using simple and familiar principles to devastating effect and it does get audible gasps. It really does! Perform it stage or close-up as you wish. Easy enough to do, no sleights, works every time. (I perform this item on my 'Mind Power' lecture show video)

The Subliminal Prediction: I'm genuinely proud of this. How can you put a written prediction on full and open display, right in front of the audience's eyes, such that not one person in the room will see it until you want them to? That's the intriguing premise behind the Subliminal Prediction, and you will love it! I suspect you will want to present this routine right away, just for the joy of that killer finish when you show that your prediction was right there, unconcealed and on open view the whole time - and yet no-one in the audience saw it!

The routine itself is essentially a straightforward prediction effect. Given 16 choices on open display, a spectator makes a series of simple selections so that 16 become 8 become 4, 2 and finally 1, which he is

amazed to find matches your prediction. Strong features of this routine are that there is only one prediction (no multiple outs) and it is set in stone right from the start. The spectator's choices are all genuinely free, and there is definitely no equivocation or magician's choice at any point. You keep what he tells you to keep, you discard what he tells you to discard. Yet it still comes out right! Works every time, not hard to do. Close-up or stage. (I perform this item on my 'Mind Power' lecture show video)

Elephant From Matchbox: a silly name for a beautiful principle which lends itself to any number of different routines and presentations. You invite the spectator to mentally play any game which has a 50:50 outcome, such as tossing a coin. You write down your prediction using a bold marker pen on a writing pad. He tells you whether he's visualising heads or tails, and you instantly show that you predicted (or read his mind) correctly. Imagine being able to do this five times in a row and you can be 100% correct every time! (You can in fact be as wrong or as right as you want to be.)

This beautifully deceptive principle works with any 50:50 choice. Spectator mentally picks a card - red or black? Mentally plays roulette: odd or even? Mentally picks a famous person: male or female? And so on. He does it all in his head - no forces. You write your prediction first, you are always as right or as wrong as you want to be, and it is sure-fire. No nailwriters or band-writers or last-minute writing-in. No delay or awkward pauses, because there is nothing to fix or write-in. You show your written prediction immediately each time!

The No Method Drawing Duplication: exactly what it says! You will keep this wonderful approach to the Drawing Duplication effect in reserve for those times when your standard methods and the usual 'impromptu' methods are either unavailable or can't be used. The spectator makes a simple drawing, you tune in to his thoughts and attempt to draw the same thing. You can do this under test conditions exactly as if you could do it for real, because there is essentially no 'method' or 'trickery' for anyone to find! No billets, switches, peeks or glimpses; no impressions or forces; none of the usual tools of the trade. Is it sure-fire? No, but it is sure-fire enough! I started using this approach just as an emergency parachute, but now it's actually my *main* method which I use almost to the exclusion of all others. You will get a creditable result 90% of the time, and if you want to rack that up to nearer 100% then I describe some simple additional ideas which enable

you to do just that. Once you have learned this and have it in your head, you are ready to present it anywhere, any time.

Preludes: Preludes are a mentalist's best friend! Preludes are not a trick or a routine, but my favourite way to 'warm up' an informal or close-up audience using a few picture cards you can easily carry with you at all times. Call them mood-setters, ice-breakers, or just a great way to get yourself noticed and talked-about - you will soon learn never to leave home without them! Easy to make, and yet oh-so-useful to have with you when you want to make an impression as a man of mental talents and mystery

REVIEW:

Poorly produced booklet, especially when compared to Rowland's previous releases. Probably the title should have been "Mental Magic Lecture Notes".

The contents however are interesting: the spoon bending comedy routine is described in full details and is certainly a winner in stage/parlor settings. The other effects are based on standard methods with fresh presentational twists – for example the NLP/motivational approach taken on some well-known visual illusions (Prelude cards), or the Banachek's Universal Drawing add-ons (NMDD).

I unfortunately cannot ignore the recent exposure concerns (please refer to your favorite discussion forum for further details) and need to point out that the booklet lends itself pretty well for photocopying purposes.

OVERALL RATING: ok

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=59630&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 92: The Stockholder – Gregory Wilson

AD:

Take an old but effective principle, mix in the creative genius of some of the top names in close up and you get Gregory Wilson's **THE STOCKHOLDER!**

You receive a nicely made small leather wallet which you can use to carry credit cards around in, which on one side has a place for your business cards. The business card side of the wallet is gimmicked to work on the 'Out To Lunch' principle and enables you to create all manner of fun and amazing effects.

The 72 page A5 centre stapled book of routines supplied is very comprehensive. Photo illustrated, it gives the exact handling of the prop plus many routines from people such as Michael Close, Paul Harris, Daryl, Simon Lovell, Michael Webber, Dan Harlan, Jay Sankey, Gregory Wilson and more. The book is also written in a wonderfully funny and entertaining way! You're going to **LOVE** this!

REVIEW:

The wallet has in-built speakers and a giant yellow label with “MAGIC PROP” written on it. On the other hand, the booklet is full choking of gags and offbeat presentations for the Out To Lunch principle. Surprisingly entertaining, it's definitely worth reading if you enjoy this method.

Buy it, throw away the wallet and continue using your clip or rubber bands.

OVERALL RATING: good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=70821&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 89: The Cantrip Codex: a Guide for the Advanced Enigmatist - Tony Doc Shiels

AD:

N/A (out of print)

REVIEW:

1989 hardbound production from one of the grandfathers of Bizarre Magick.

The book, published by the late Tony Andruzzi, focuses on original presentational aspects instead of actual methods. It includes a couple of séances, essays on his performance philosophy, effects with a Polaroid camera, tarot cards, weird artifacts etc . My favorite was a “backward in time” effect with human hairs and bones...

After reading this book, many wished they could meet his daughter.

OVERALL RATING: good (and even better for the assiduous bizarrists)

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=60936&forum=14>

HN Magic Review 87: Fortune and Fate – Anthony Lindan

AD:

A “Con-Fabulous” mental effect using your own business cards. Commercial and entertaining mentalism routine using a game show (i.e., quiz show) format, making for lots of great audience participation! Works equally well for table workers, or as a feature routine in a parlor act. Anthony Lindan gives us 10 solid minutes of strong psychic entertainment that can be easily worked out of your pocket. I’ve used it

successfully in several trade shows, as the customization aspect of this piece is really great! (I used the company representative's business cards.) Using only the back of your business cards, you predict a participant's personal dream price package (no matter what prize or prizes the dream up).

Included with the quality instruction booklet is a special gimmick. It helps you do that extra secret "dirty work" thanks makes this routine so unusually strong. Everything in the routine ends clean and can be examined. There are no gimmicks to steal out or ditch. Re-sets in seconds for as many performances as you like.

REVIEW:

Nothing more than a mental magic trick with your business cards, but the appealing plot and the (seemingly) impromptu nature of the effect makes it worth a look. The modus operandi combines several classic methods you already know, and Dan Garrett illustrates all the fine points of the routine.

The gimmick I received however is very poorly gimmicked (far from the "surgical precision" promised in the manuscript) – I urge you to check it before purchasing.

OVERALL RATING: ok

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=50136&forum=15>

HN Magic Review 84: Linking Life Savers / Linking Polo Mints – Colin Gilbert

AD:

Colin Gilbert's **Linking Lifesavers** is one of the best close-up effects to come along in a long time. It's great magic with the most innocent looking items imaginable!

From a roll of Lifesavers, a spectator selects any two. These are genuine Lifesavers. They can even take the two from their own roll.

The Lifesavers are **signed** and, with no cover of any kind, they are visibly **linked together!!**

While they are linked, the signatures are verified and the Lifesavers tossed back and forth from hand to hand to prove that they are unbroken.

Then, the Lifesavers are unlinked and both handed back as souvenirs.

Absolutely amazing! The gimmick is just great. No already-linked Lifesavers, glue, threads, etc. The reset is instantaneous and you can repeat it immediately.

Self-working and powerful.

REVIEW:

Well-produced soft-himber gimmick, which looks (and smells, if you carry it in a Lifesavers pack) just like the real thing. The idea of signing food seems a bit incongruent, but the effect found its place in my linking rubber bands routine.

Unfortunately, it is rather delicate (the original Polo Mint version is slightly larger and stronger): you may need to purchase it twice, one for practicing and the other for performance purposes.

You can get both versions by contacting Colin Gilbert himself – his address was published on the November (December?) 1998 issue of the Linking Ring. The original version came with an expensive and useless instructional video – fortunately no longer available.

OVERALL RATING: good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=15632&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 69: Paper Balls over the Head video/DVD – Tony Clark

AD:

Tony Clark had the privilege of being one of Slydini's last students. One of the most valuable routines he learned was the Paper Balls Over the Head - not only because of its incredible impact and audience reaction, but also because Tony learned Slydini's most powerful technique in misdirection to perform it. Tony used this technique and created a rendition of Slydini's routine. The live performance on this video was shot at one of Tony's 2,200 performances at the Horizon Casino Resort in Lake Tahoe. In that time, Tony honed this paper ball routine into a powerful and comical piece of entertainment that you and your audience will thoroughly enjoy. Tony gives you a step by step, one on one lesson teaching you the details of this fabulous routine.

PLUS! A bonus section with Tony's Kids Version!

REVIEW:

A classic comedy act: 5 minutes of impromptu magical entertainment, with nothing more than tissue paper. All the fine points are thoroughly explained, and the Slydini's influence really shows through. Since Mr. Clark performed the routine more than 2200 times, one could wonder why the video showcases the same performance twice...

Anyway, a detailed lesson in timing and misdirection.

OVERALL RATING: good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=47231&forum=111>

HN Magic Review 68: Mobile Mentalism - Mark Strivings

AD:

One of the first books (and the largest) ever written dealing exclusively with the topic of walk-around mentalism. Sixteen effects and routines, all designed for the demanding world of the strolling performer.

Included are several routines by Mark Strivings as well as some of the top performers in the world of mentalism. Effects are included from such luminaries as Docc Hilford, Richard Webster, Terry Nosek, Ed Fowler, John Riggs, Anthony Lindan, Gene Urban and Robert Waller.

Taken together, this is a formidable collection of mentalism. You will use this material! Also included is an audio tape specifically for instruction of an effect called 'Sort-Of Numerology' by Mark Strivings. An impromptu mindreading effect that will knock your audiences out.

In all over 60 pages of hard hitting mentalism!

This is a book you will refer to over and over again. If you do close-up or strolling work of any kind you need this book.

REVIEW:

The highlight IMHO is the accompanying audiotape, entirely devoted to the effect "Sort of Numerology": it includes 2 honest phone performances and a number of details not included in the booklet. A gimmickless mentalism effect well worth the price of the package.

The manuscript also describes the basic PW technique (sadly expanded in “[Miracles from the Hip](#)”) and an interesting “Out to Lunch” presentation from Anthony Lindan. The rest is easy mental magic.

OVERALL RATING: good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=47230&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 66: Boomerang Rubber Band – Chris Kenner / Dan Garrett

AD:

A most unusual effect. Performer stretches a rubber band around his outstretched thumb and little finger. He then shoots the rubber band across the room about 15 feet. It hits the floor and begins a reverse spin and returns to the performer rolling on its edge!! Charlie Miller created much talk with this effect many years ago in Genii Magazine. Now here is this legendary juggling feat that will amaze everyone.

REVIEW:

Very visual quickie – the manuscript says that Dai Vernon was badly fooled by it.

This impromptu effect is also described in the Dan Harlan’s [Magic with Rubber Bands](#) video trilogy, but the printed instructions are more detailed. Be aware, it takes a LONG time to acquire the knack (I found it more difficult than snapping a knot with a shoelace!)

Just a quick stunt, but it does get a reaction.

OVERALL RATING: ok

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=7266&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 64: PK pen - Banachek

AD:

A Bic brand pen is balanced on the edge of the table and the performer may then walk across the room. After exerting tremendous mental powers directed at the pen, **the pen slowly wiggles then moves and finally falls onto the floor!** You pick it up, begin to return it to your pocket but instead use it as you would any ordinary pen.

An uncanny display of your mental powers done with an "ordinary" everyday Bic ink pen.

- Each pen prepared by hand
- Includes one gimmicked and one ungimmicked pen

REVIEW:

The pen really works as described, and you could be in the other room when it happens.

However, the effect is weakened by a few factors:

- the pen is not a "common" BIC – you hardly see this type of pen around. Perhaps a common Paper Mate (or even better, a "clear" Bic) would have been more appropriate;
- the regular pen provided is different that the gimmicked one (fine/medium point... some spectators are sneakier than mentalists)! This is a surprising inconsistency, coming from such a "subtle" thinker;

- the pen does not write – you can't use it for previous effects. That's really a pity, I would have paid a lot more for a few inkblots.

OVERALL RATING: good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=19020&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 63: Celebration of Sides video/DVD– Robert Neale

AD:

"Robert Neale is one of my favorite people to hang out with. Plus, I use one of his creations every day in my show. Years ago my pal Michael Weber introduced me to Robert, and I've been fascinated by him ever since. Here's your chance to have Michael perform this same introduction; I bet you'll be as enthralled as I continue to be." - Mac King

"Bob Neale, one of the most creative thinkers on this planet, takes us into an Alice In Wonderland world where impossible things happen and then he teaches us how to do these inexplicable demonstrations...Bravo!" -Barrie Richardson

Celebration of Sides will expose you to many unusual facets of the unique Robert Neale. You'll meet Neale the Topologist, the Artist, the Philosopher and the Trickster as he leads you on a personal tour of his world—a nonsense world that just might distort your perception and alter your view of reality.

Mr. Neale is joined by Michael Weber as they discuss miraculous plots with items like impossible boxes, walls that have invisible holes and multidirectional arrows (objects easily found in any alternative dimension.) Note that there are no cards and no coins, just fresh impossibilities that will confound, enlighten, and delight both you and your audiences.

Included are: Arrow of Good Fortune, (K)not Magic, Whatsabox!, Inside The Beltway, Trapdoor, Borromean Rings, Brick Wall and a special bonus of Robert Neale's famous Bunny Bill.

Approximate Running Time: 113 Minutes

REVIEW:

Original video from Bob Neale, with the "enthusiastic" participation of Michael Weber.

You will need to build and bring along your props in Borromean Rings, Whatsabox and Arrow of Good Fortune. The Trapdoor Card and the [Bunny Bill](#) are both excellent and impromptu effects (see relevant reviews), but were already published years ago - by Karl Fulves and Jay Marshall respectively.

Inside the Beltway and Knot Magic are lightweight tricks with a borrowed belt and a piece of string ("tying a knot without letting go the end").

In Brickwall instead, Neale has taken to new heights (pun intended) an old Gardner/Curry idea – a fascinating redistribution of spaces that could be done impromptu with your pre-marked business card.

OVERALL RATING: good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=43057&forum=111>

HN Magic Review 61: PK touches – Banachek

AD:

2 spectators participate in a haunting story during which they feel touches on their shoulders while the magician is nowhere near them!

What You Get: 10 page spiral-bound booklet with step-by-step instructions and detailed illustrations

REVIEW:

Probably Banachek wanted to take the credits for the effect, without giving away the whole store. It shows throughout: cheaply produced booklet, full of typos, remarkably weak presentation (a corny “dead uncle” patter).

The effect can be a killer in the right situations, especially if combined with an alternative method (I use a version of Socrate’s Chi Power); but I can’t see anybody performing this effect straight from the book without a LOT of extra work.

OVERALL RATING: good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=14373&forum=15>

HN Magic Review 60: Wonder Penetration – Doug Edwards

AD:

This is a fantastic pen through anything effect. This pen looks like a normal Papermate biro, and can be examined by the spectator both before and after the effect, with no switches to perform. The spectator can actually see the pen go through the note! Amazing! Only one pen is used and other effects (such as coin transformations) can also be done.

REVIEW:

I loved this one, a very cheap ordinary-looking Paper Mate that is FULLY examinable after the effect (no, not *right* before the effect –

beware of those misleading ads). A few magicians even took it to pieces to find nothing.

Check it before buying, because some of the pens are poorly gimmicked.

OVERALL RATING: good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=17798&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 38: Magic with rubber bands videos/DVD vol. 1, 2, 3
– Dan Harlan

AD:

Dan Harlan, an innovator in rubberband magic, has organized this video into sections featuring complimentary methods to form **fully developed routines**. The instructions make these effects nearly effortless to learn! It's easier when you actually see the tricks done and explained by a professional magician!

Vol. 1 includes: **Rubber Cuffs** (yes, **THAT rubber band trick** where one rubber band seems to pass right through another), Back Two-Gether, Soft Spot, Twice As Crazy, Crazy Link, Crazy Twist Vanish, Card Cuffs, Climbing Ring, Snap Two, Post Modern String Art, Appearing Band, Band Parenthood, 2 to 1 Join, Recurring Nightmare, 1 to 2 Split, Multiple Appearance, Tongue Tied, Hindu Bands. 18 effects in all!

Vol. 2 includes: Pseudo Wrist Penetration, Thumb Twist, Finger Twist, Deck Twist, Delayed Snap and Penetration, Hypnotic Link, Missing Link, Breakaway, Breaking Up the Band, Spread Suspension, Resonance, Knot Restored, Pans, Stranded

Vol 3 includes: Rubber Morph, Willy Worm, Penetrating Matches, Snap Back, Spaghetti Up Nose, Jump Switch, Boomerang Band, Star, Starweaver, Latter Ladder, Timezones, Cash Delay, Acrobaticclip, Jumping Rubber Band, Twist-On, Delayed Jump, One-Armed Band-Up, Doublejointed (Penetration), Jumper Stumper, Emergency Pull, Mass Vanish to Ball

REVIEW:

There's a whole bunch of weak puzzles in these tapes, but with some practice you will surely be able to come up with 5 minutes of solid close-up magic. The best single rubber band item in the magic circuit is still, IMHO, Michael Ammar's [Classic Renditions Vol. 2](#) (just compare his Crazyman's Handcuffs with Harlan's version).

A special mention for a penetration effect with 2 borrowed matches (and no rubber bands) that uses a different method, and could therefore reinforce similar rubber band effects.

For those interested in creating full rubber bands routines, Mr. Harlan's tapes are certainly worth a look.

OVERALL RATING: ok

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=23548&forum=111>

HN Magic Review 37: Psychokinetic Silverware video/DVD – Banachek/Gerry Mc Cambridge

AD:

If you really could bend metal with your mind, Psycho-kinetic Silverware is exactly how it would look. You'll see cold, hard steel melt

like butter—bending, twisting, breaking and moving seemingly on its own, even in a spectator's hand!

Banachek's metal bending is so amazing and so realistic that he has often been accused of being and doing "the real thing." In fact, after studying Banachek's metal bending the McDonnell Laboratory for Psychic Research proudly announced to the scientific community that they had discovered someone with genuine psychic abilities! The National Inquirer and other media have also heralded Banachek's psychokinetic talents.

On this videotape, Gerry and Banachek finally reveal the real secrets to these amazing routines in PK Silverware. Not only will you get to see how everything looks in performance, you'll also learn the real inside work, the fine points and psychology of metal bending. These are secrets which have have been very tightly guarded...until now.

REVIEW:

Interesting video (so far the best approach on spoon bending), courtesy of the numerous psychological subtleties involved.

Unfortunately, cheap cutlery is not an option: don't expect to perform the full routines (6 effects, divided in 3 sets) with any borrowed fork. Also, the last 2 effects (the most impressive) require some advance preparation.

OVERALL RATING: ok

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=32105&forum=15>

HN Magic Review 36: Easy to Master Money Miracles videos/DVD vol. 1, 2 and 3 – Michael Ammar

AD:

A rich collection of powerful money magic - both new and classic. World Champion magician Michael Ammar has assembled the very best of the practical yet astonishing routines using coins and currency ever shown on video. This is any-time, any-place magic which you can use to astonish spectators anywhere!

Volume One

- 41 - Cent Miracle (Michael Ammar)
- Continuous Production (Jack Chanin)
- Credit Card Quickie (Tony Antoniou)
- Hornswoggled (George Stark & Jay Malbrough)
- Snappy (Aldo Colombini)
- Michael's Matrix (Michael Ammar)
- Star Warp (Howard Schwarzman)
- Bent Penny Transposition (Michael Ammar)
- Incredible Coins Across (Michael Ammar)
- Hanging Coins (David Roth)
- Bonus Effect - Cash Back (Peter Pit)

Volume Two

- Shadow Coins (Roth & Ammar)
- BeSwitched (George Hample)
- Coin Flurry & Jumbo Production
- Sensory Control (Bob Elliott)
- Copper Silver Transpo
- The \$2 Bill Tear (Bert Jacques & Gene Keeney)
- Sonic Squeeze (Michael Ammar)
- The 4 Coin Roll Down (Manuel)
- Expansion of Texture (Dai Vernon & L'Homme Masque)
- Bonus Effect - Self - Folding Bill (Stephan Schutzer)

Volume Three

- Coins Thru Silk (Michael Ammar)
- Dining On Dollars (Rick Johnsson)
- Flying Eagles (Eddie Fechter)

- \$5 and \$1 (Tom Ogden)
- Coin From Pen Cap (David Williamson)
- Chocolate Coin (Paul Harris)
- E-Z Money (Patrick Page & Fred Kaps)
- The 10,000 Grains of Salt
- Bonus Effect - Bill To Nut (Michael Ammar & Louis Falanga)
- Plus - The Bill To Impossible Location (Michael Ammar & Louis Falanga)

REVIEW:

Mr. Ammar has kept a pretty clean record on these 15 years – this trilogy is no exception.

Sure, you'll find a lot of fillers and vacuous manipulative stunts (several tricks, such as Matrix, Flying Eagles, Coins thru silk and c/s transpositions are illustrated twice) but you'll get away with a few workable close-up effects with coins and bills.

OVERALL RATING: good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=13846&forum=111>

HN Magic Review 35: Psychokinetic Time (PK Time) – Banachek (Steve Shaw)

AD:

Do you remember the stunning David Blaine's magic effect performed on TV? In effect, he borrowed a watch from a man sitting in his car and checked the correct time. He placed the watch back in the man's hands and then asked him to think of a number to move the time. The man said "24" and after a few seconds of mental hocus-pocus, the man opened his hands and saw the watch indeed MOVE AHEAD 24 MINUTES! The reaction was incredible!

Now, you can learn the original method and forcing techniques used for this amazing effect in Banacheck's 26- page manuscript Psycho-kinetic Time. After being long out of print, Banachek has re-released this monumental effect. Psychokinetic Time comes complete with nine clear photos and descriptive text that details the ultimate impromptu method for altering the time on a spectator's watch while held in their own hand! Other effects and concepts with watches are also discussed using the secret principles. No "gadgets" or difficult handling. This is for the serious magician, mentalist or conjuring enthusiast - but can be mastered by anyone!

REVIEW:

Cons (unconvincingly addressed by the author):

- The effect should not be repeated for the same crowd;
- You cannot use any borrowed watch;
- The angles are indeed an issue;
- The REAL success rate is far from being 100%.

Pros:

- Great reactions when it hits;
- Really impromptu, no set-up
- propless (apart from the borrowed watch, obviously).

A detailed script is included in the [Wonder Words](#) series.

OVERALL RATING: good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=27309&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 32: Sense of Touch – Ian Rowland

AD:

Sense of Touch is not one trick or routine. It is a versatile principle for magicians, mentalists and psychic entertainers.

Sense of Touch allows you to present a range of effects which are pseudo-psychic in nature and extremely deceptive. When you order Sense of Touch, you get a professionally-printed 48 page booklet.

Part One: the 'SWIFT Challenge' effect. This is one of my favourite applications for the SOT principle. The performer offers to demonstrate 'seeing' with his fingertips, and gives a pack of cards to a spectator. While the performer looks away, the spectator chooses a handful of red and black cards and mixes them. The performer takes back this face down packet of cards. By lightly feeling the face of each card with his fingertips, he is able to tell whether it is red or black. The performer sense that the spectators are not very impressed. They may suspect the cards are marked n the back, or that other trickery is involved. The performer offers to repeat the demonstration under any conditions the spectators want to impose. He does so, and is still 100% successful.

The performer is also able to differentiate high cards from low, or odd cards from even, or even court cards from spot cards, apparently just by using his fingertips to 'see' or 'sense' these differences.

The spectators can impose any controls or conditions they want (consistent with the premise), yet the performer is always successful. The effect can be repeated as often as required. Everything - including the performer's hands and the cards - can be examined at any time. The performer can even give the cards away at the end!

Part Two: effects without playing cards. You can apply the Sense of Touch principle to blank cards, tarot cards, ESP cards, picture cards, post cards, business cards, note cards, printed cards or more or less anything else that is essentially 'card-like'. Part Two of the booklet explores many different themes, options and possibilities.

Example: if you like working with ESP cards, have someone choose a particular symbol (e.g. the Cross) and then prove you can tell the Cross cards from the others purely by 'seeing with the fingertips'.

Or take a stack of your business cards. Someone writes their initials the blank side of one card, and mixes this with several others. You can 'divine' the written-on card purely by 'reading with your fingertips'.

REVIEW:

Nicely produced booklet. It looks like Mr. Rowland's system is really undetectable (REALLY undetectable, since I can't even figure it out myself – certainly this is due to lack of practice), so the "Out of this World" effect can be a success in the right hands.

The second part of the book deals with other classic mental effects that could use the system (with different presentational angles) – but you definitely have easier ways to perform them.

OVERALL RATING: ok

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=5597&forum=15>

HN Magic Review 30: Jump! – John Kennedy

AD:

A pen rests inside of a cup. You concentrate, stare at the cup, and something strange happens - the pen jumps out of the cup!

With Jump you can make a pen, pencil, spoon, or straw jump out of a cup or glass. You can even make popcorn pop right out of its bowl!

And no one will know how it works because they can examine everything afterwards.

Jump is a state-of-the-art electronic device that operates with a standard 9-volt battery (included). One battery will cause over a hundred jumps! The device stays hidden away from the action leaving no clue to the telekinetic mystery.

REVIEW:

Good gimmick, but also very delicate: mine tangled a dozen times so far. The effect is great (a few spectators really jump!), but it is not meant for really impromptu situations, and for sure not with a borrowed item. You need to set it up in advance at your performing location, with everything in place.

The timing mechanism is invariable – a mentalism presentation would probably have benefited from a longer delay.

OVERALL RATING: good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=11506&forum=113>

HN Magic Review 21: An Enchanted Evening – Kenton Knepper

AD:

Here's what Kenton himself says about this "enchanted" work:

"I am really excited about this diverse manuscript for a lot of reasons. It's 60 full size pages. It has magic, mentalism, readings, essays and more in it. I have put in some of my favorite new material for both stage and close-up. I really LOVE this material as I do it often!"

Here are some highlights:

Spoon Bending Parties -- a detailed examination which many mentalists have asked me to share with them alone, or keep to myself.

Bending Coins with no moves, and Manifesting Coins as desired by a spectator.

Packet Trick Readings -- this is a riot! Magicians love it.

Mentalists hate it. You should use it. How can it be this easy and startling too?

Flower Psychological Force as a Reading, with Outs as Personality Tests and more.

Flowers From Fingertips. Really. A no palming, no holder spring flower production that has fooled many well-versed performers. It's EASY. An amazing invention.

A wide and eclectic blend of magic, mentalism, essays on enchantment, psychology, linguistics and more that I use almost daily in my work.

The Full Linguistically Twisted Kenton Tarot Trick for BSM -- ALL the details!

Beautiful, poetic, miraculous, memorable magic and mentalism that is truly different.

Loads more I can't even begin to discuss

As one friend put it, "It's as eclectic and as interesting as you -- it's pure Kenton, but everyone will benefit from it greatly whoever they are". I sure hope so. That was my full intention. The whole thing is a bit beyond words. Read it and you'll know what I mean.

If you cannot find something worthwhile for you to USE in this one, I'll stop putting stuff out. I'm serious. This is the material that has made others, as well as myself, seem truly miraculous to our audiences. I know you can do valuable things with this stuff too.

We say if you like Kenton, you'll love this!

REVIEW:

Interesting book. Contents include: a great addition to your invisible coins routine from Bryce Kuhlman, Ray Koenig's Bent Cent (also sold separately), a rose force application, some wadding card stuff, spoon bending parties patters (you do not want to do that, hopefully!), nice quotes from R.W. Emerson &C, and the usual glorified blah blah

OVERALL RATING: good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=30692&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 1: Dynamic Mysteries – Richard Osterlind

AD:

Richard Osterlind unlocks the secrets of his high-impact stunners! A top professional, a man who earns a six figure income performing magic and mentalism, Richard's turbo charged material takes him across the world performing for stellar fees which most magicians dream about. As the inventor of mind-boggling mysteries, his creations have a rock solid reputation as the best of the best! Dynamic Mysteries is material straight from Richard's repertoire, astonishing audiences and producing powerful and practical effects! In this book, you'll learn 17 of his mind boggling dynamic effects!

This 99-page book teaches you in great detail of Richard's close-up and stage miracles. A great gift idea for magicians, this book is perfect for the Close-Up, Stand-Up, Stage, Table-To-Table, Trade Show, Restaurant, Radio and Television, and Corporate magicians alike.

REVIEW:

What if a spectator chooses the word “Modesty” in an Osterlind’s booktest routine?

Anyway, I bought the book for the effect “Miracle Thought Projection”, and I am pleased with it – good enough for me. You will unfortunately need real cards, but it is a nice addition if you already enjoy the mental card projections of Docc Hilford ([Real Mind Reading](#) video), Derren Brown ([Pure Effect](#) and The Devil’s Picturebook), Kenton Knepper and David Greene (Killer Konceptions) etc.

The book includes shameless plugs to Jeff Busby's products, along with methods and thoughts for Ring Flight, ESP card tricks, his own Apex Stainless Steel Blindfold, John Cornelius' gimmicked calculator, the clip line prediction etc.

There are however too many compromises for me - compare a direct mind reading effect with numbers such as Strivings' excellent "Sort of Numerology" (in his book "[Mobile Mentalism](#)") with the Osterlind plot: gimmicked calculator, pieces of paper, misreading, one ahead etc etc.

OVERALL RATING: Good

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=30484&forum=110>

Average

Some of you may still find some value in these items: I generally place here magic and mental items that do not deliver as promised, or simply stuff that is not for me.

HN Magic Review 102: Encyclopedia of Paper Money Magic – Mike Bornstein

AD:

Creative and Commercial, Five Books In One! Over 200 pages, perfect bound. **Contents include:**

The Floating Dollar Bill
The Convincing Torn and Restored Dollar Bill
Instant Disappearing and Appearing Dollar Bill
Cut and Restored Bill
Torn and Restored Bill
Cards to Dollar Bills
Clip Joint
The Hydrostatic Dollar Bill
Improved Floating Dollar Bill
The Photo-static Dollar Bill
Stretching a Dollar Bill
Stand Up Bill
Simplex Money Maker
The Elusive President
X-Static Dollar Bill
Double Match-it
Polaroid Card Trick
Perfect Prediction
Triple Mini Miracle
Instant Money
Single Card to Bill
Impromptu Standing on Edge
Elastic Penetro
Enlarged Invisible Hole

Triangle Angle
Improved Clip Joint
Mike Bornstein's Improved \$1 and \$5 Bill Trick
Instant Money Number Two
1 Plus 1 = 4 Bill Tick
"Frisbee" Dollar Bill Trick
Match and Rematch
Lucky Buck
Lucky Buck Number 2
Comedy Card in Wallet
Diminishing Dollar Bills
New Improved Comedy Bill In Snake
The Spirit of '76
Polaroid Money Outdone
Simplex Bill Penetration
Deluxe Double Matchit
How Sweet It Is
Comedy Floating Dollar Bill
Mike Bornstein's Money Mania
Mike Bornstein's New "Asrah" Floating Bill"
Ultra Coin Penetration
Deluxe Triple Match-it
Ultra Bill Suspension

There are lots of great ideas in these volumes! Highly Recommended.

REVIEW:

This out-of-print book contains 5 manuscripts previously released by the author: Money Magic, More Money Magic, Latest Money Magic, New Commercial Money Magic, and Eye Popper Money Magic. Several effects have also been sold separately, with custom-made gaffs (for example the [Rising Dollar Bill](#) and the Ultra Bill Suspension – see relevant reviews).

Certainly if you have a strong interest in money magic and want to purchase something from Mr. Bornstein, this is definitely the item to get: it includes all his works on the topic, at a reasonable price. On the other hand, a number of his tricks are outdated or simply childish, so you may want to check Michael Ammar's "[Easy to Master Money Miracles](#)" video trilogy first.

OVERALL RATING: acceptable

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=71241&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 101: Rising Dollar Bill – Mike Borstein

AD:

Mike Borstein's **Rising Dollar Bill** is so close to genuine magic -- it's scary! Show two dollar bills. One is placed across the open palm of your right hand. Slowly and eerily, the bill rises off of your hand, higher and higher, until it is several inches above your hand. To prove that there's nothing between your hand and the bill, you pass the second dollar under the floating bill! It looks GREAT! As slowly as the bill rose, it descends back into your hand. There are no strings or threads -- the bill simply appears to float!

REVIEW:

For 2.50\$, you can hardly go wrong/right...

The effect is also described in Mike Bornstein's "Money Magic" and in his complete collection "[Encyclopedia of Paper Money Magic](#)" (see relevant review), but this one comes with the proper custom-made gimmick.

One of the 2 bills is obviously not examinable, and the angles are quite restrictive (spectators can only view it from above). A simple quickie to be performed with your own bill(s).

OVERALL RATING: average

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=71239&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 96: Bottle through Table – Norm Nielsen / Tony Clark

AD:

Just imagine wrapping a piece of paper around any size brown, green or clear bottle and magically penetrate it through a solid table!

The audience actually sees the top of the bottle sticking out of the paper as it is going through the table. You will receive 3 quality gimmicks manufactured by Norm Nielsen Magic with instructions by Johnny Thompson as well as Tony Clark's instructions which allow you to perform it standing up! Anytime, anywhere! A very powerful effect.

REVIEW:

A note of warning: make sure that the version you purchase includes the video! They are often sold separately (Norm Nielsen manufactured the gimmicks, while Tony Clark produced the video a few years later).

The gimmicks are exactly what you think they are, and come in 3 different colors (for water, wine and beer bottles). The video is very short but provides a clean misdirection, along the Slydini's line of thought.

In real-life performances, a jacket would be advisable to obtain/get rid of the gimmick.

OVERALL RATING: acceptable

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=33899&forum=5>

AD:

JUST IMAGINE

A Dark Room, A Flickering Candle

And Then Suddenly

People SEE A Ghost!

Oh yes, some other spooky stuff happens too!

All you need is a candle and FLICKERS.

This really works and you don't need an assistant to actually make people believe that they've encountered a Ghost. I've actually had some real macho types come unglued with this. They swear "something" was standing/floating there because they SAW it!

Honest, its just you, the candle and your audience

REVIEW:

Abundantly overpriced, as all other Lary Kuehn's products. You get a couple of pages describing the procedures for gimmicking a candle (but I've read something similar in Magick several years ago), and an original tidbit to visualize the "ghost" (a kind of white shadow in the dark... couldn't explain it worse, uh?).

Could find its place in seances or related ghost shows.

OVERALL RATING: average

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=11621&forum=14>

HN Magic Review 67: Expert Impromptu Magic Made Easy vol. 1– Tom Mullica

AD:

Here is the first of a three-volume video by Tom Mullica, the king of impromptu magic. 90 minutes of performance and teaching of magic done with almost any object. Contents include Perpetual Balls, Cookie Mystery, Waters of India, Stretching Hank, Ring Rope & Pin, Bouncing Fruit, Spirit Hand, Ashes thru Hand, Fox Napkin Vanish, Calendar Caper, Wrigley Feel, Sweet Prediction, Broken & Restored Match, Book Test, Pencil thru Bill, Ultra Sensory Perception, One Handed Knot, Tying a Knot Without Letting Go of Ends, and Silk Thru Arm.

REVIEW:

I bought the first volume only. Not that this tape is particularly bad: the performances and explanations are funny, but you need a geeky personality to pull off Tom's gags...

Concerning the effects, most of them are very lightweight (or simply silly – check out the effects “Calendar Caper” or “Wrigley Feel” to see what I mean!), and therefore suitable for beginners only.

OVERALL RATING: acceptable

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=44241&forum=111>

HN Magic Review 59: Perfect Pen – John Cornelius

AD:

Who would have thought the John Cornelius' original Pen Through Anything could possibly be improved on? Well, leave it to magical genius John Cornelius to take his own invention to the next level!

Effect: A \$20 bill is borrowed from a member of the audience. The magician hands them a pen to sign their bill and examine if desired. The magician retrieves the pen and bill, and without any funny moves whatsoever, proceeds to pierce the bill with the pen. The audience can clearly see the pen has penetrated the bill. He proceeds to visibly and audibly rip the pen through the bill, yet when it's handed back to the spectator, the bill is unharmed! The pen and the bill may then be handed out immediately for complete examination!

- Pen is completely examinable
- Nothing added or taken away
- Pen may be written with and refilled

REVIEW:

The pen is self-contained (no need for a switch as in the previous version) and well gimmicked, but will NOT sustain a thorough examination: this is really a problem for me... I continue to prefer the old [Wonder Penetration](#) (see relevant review).

Besides, this principle is so common nowadays that I feel a bit uncomfortable in performing it: the moves suggested by Cornelius in the instructions somewhat hide the principle (against the “too-perfect” theory) but weaken the effect.

OVERALL RATING: average

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=28141&forum=5>

HN Magic Review 58: Perfect Hold out (gimmick+video)– Antonio Romero

AD:

After several years as one of Antonio Romero's most closely guarded secrets, *The Perfect Holdout* system is now available to you! Mr. Romero has pushed this classic stunt into a whole new dimension that makes it a diabolical tool for effects of all kinds, whether you perform on stage or close-up. The instructional video included with the holdout contains a detailed description of the device, its handling and many possible applications, including:

- **Super Knives** A new color-changing knife routine with double and triple changes, productions, knife stretching and more, ending with immediately handing the knives out for examination
- **Incredible Card to Wallet** The most surprising version of this classic effect in years, Antonio's version has fooled many well-informed magicians
- **Multiple Vanish** Cleanly vanish four coins together in a flash

Comes with the very special device and instructional video.

REVIEW:

The initial setup is truly a huge pain. The poorly produced video does not help too much, and the dubbing of Rafael Banatar is often disturbing.

However, the gimmick works: you were promised a “small movements / large movements” pulley system, and this is what you get. No locking mechanism unfortunately, you will have to set it up before performance.

OVERALL RATING: average

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=18451&forum=113>

HN Magic Review 57: Final Book Test – Elian Agaian

AD:

Riffle through any unprepared magazine or a regular soft bound book that was just given to you by a spectator. Ask him to call Stop whenever he wishes. Let him see and remember the first or last word on the desired page and you are now able to tell him the word he is thinking of, immediately!

- * Use a Borrowed Book
- * No Suspicious Moves
- * Show Your Hands Empty
- * Clever and Small Gimmick, the Audience Will Never Notice its Existence
- * No Preparations - Do It Anywhere, Anytime, Impromptu

REVIEW:

At first I thought this was one of my worst purchases in magic – the effect can easily be achieved with the same riffle method and without any gimmick (see recent examples in Peek Performances): I doubt that any layman would ever notice the difference.

However, the “snap shut” sound and the hands-off moment can make a difference when performing for magicians or well-informed spectators.

OVERALL RATING: acceptable

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=14741&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 56: Exploding light bulb – Yigal Mesika

AD:

The performer holds a completely normal, clear light bulb between his fingers, and suddenly the lightbulb **EXPLODES AND SHATTERS** into little pieces! The audience can examine the bulb both before and after the effect. Can be performed anywhere, any time. There is no movement in the performer's hands or fingers, can be done with any light bulb! Precision machined gimmick makes this easy to do. This is a strong affect your audience will remember for a long long time!

REVIEW:

Sure they “will remember it for a long long time”, especially if you leave the shattered pieces all over the place.

Anyway, the gimmick works 100%, but you need to know how to obtain it and ditch it secretly. It is more suitable for parlor or stage though, because of its dimension, the restrictive angles and other inherent factors.

OVERALL RATING: acceptable (be careful if performing close up!!)

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=13635&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 48: Healed and Sealed – Anders Moden

AD:

The performer shows the audience an empty, crushed can of soda. Magically, the can starts to unfold and all the dents pop out until the sides are perfectly straight again (see the photos above). Then, with just a touch, the opening seals up. The can is now in perfect condition, as if it has been moved backwards in time. It is not only healed and sealed, but the can has also become magically refilled, which is shown as the performer opens the can and pour himself a drink.

One normal can is used. The soda is normal, and can be consumed. The can is handed out. No switch.

This effect was invented by Anders Moden in 1997. In 2002, the TV-rights for this effect was bought by David Blaine and it was performed in the TV-show "Vertigo".

REVIEW:

Looks good on video – certainly David Blaine's manager knows it (no TV rights until 2005).

The can cannot be carried around, so you should perform this one at home or in a planned location. The major weakness is that the can is not fully examinable - and some spectators are sneaky...

OVERALL RATING: acceptable

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=23918&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 39: Brain Control – S.W. Reilly

AD:

With this method you will be able to memorize lists of objects, names, numbers, cities, states, etc. etc. You can easily and rapidly deliver any kind of list in any order. Being a mental expert brings you prestige and this kind of memory work is marveled at by audiences around the world. It's all in knowing the secret and you will be surprised how quickly you can learn this method.

REVIEW:

I truly love those books from the '30s, the wonderful smell they emanate after half a century of sleep. Better than anything you may be smoking at the moment.

This cheap little booklet contains a brief description of the one-man memory codes used by the author; beginners may still find it very useful, even though the codes should be updated and customized.

For a more extensive (and expensive) approach, you may prefer the Mental Magick of Basil Horowitz or the Harry Lorayne's products on the matter.

OVERALL RATING: average

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=32761&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 31: Zoom! – Ben Harris

AD:

This effect is one of Ben Harris' most closely guarded secrets. He's been sitting on this for over ten years, using it privately for the most important occasions only. It is Ben's very favorite trick of all time because it meets all of his personal requirements for the ideal effect.

A playing card is selected from the deck and examined. The spectators are asked specifically to look for "threads, motors and trap-doors" - anything devious. After the card is examined, the performer turns attention to himself. He turns up his sleeves and asks that his hands be inspected for anything suspicious. The table surface is also carefully inspected. Once the examination ritual is out of the way, the performer announces an attempted experiment in mind over matter.

The playing card is tabled and the spectators asked to gather in closely. The performer now waves his palm-down hand in magical passes over the tabled card. He furrows his brow as if attempting to create a magical spell.

After a few moments of intense concentration, the card comes to life and moves this way and that - away-from the performer's hand - across the tabletop. It shimmies along, seemingly with a life of its own, all the way into one of the spectator's waiting hands. Once again, all may be examined and then the effect repeated. This is one of those rare effects where an immediate repeat actually deepens the mystery without increasing the, possibility of the audience detecting the method.

REVIEW:

A quickie that can be performed seemingly impromptu with your own business card. It took me a while to prepare, but that's because I'm not properly nimble-fingered.

It has the well-known limitations of effects of ITs kind - not sure you really need the type provided by Mr. Harris. It reminds me of Michael Ammar, who insisted in selling his gimmick with his signature bill routine, before admitting in vol. 3 of his [Easy to Master Invisible](#)

[Thread Miracles](#) trilogy that this specific type was not appropriate for the effect.

OVERALL RATING: acceptable

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=16976&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 29: Finger Fantasies video/DVD– Meir Yedid

AD:

The act that won two Society Of American Magicians Close-Up Magic Competitions and their coveted Originality Award.

This is the first video devoted to finger magic. It contains Meir Yedid's award-winning Finger Fantasies act. The most incredible, impromptu routine ever seen. Your pinkie, ring finger, middle finger and your index finger all vanish and reappear at will!

Make your pinkie telescope into your palm, your thumb travels up and down your arm, take a knife and cut off one of your fingers, and more.

As seen on Comedy Tonight (FOX-TV), The Paul Daniels Show (BBC-TV), Naruhodo The World (Fuji-TV), Luna De Verano (CS-TV), Saturday Night Live (NBC-TV), and even used on Broadway and in the Ringling Brothers & Barnum & Bailey Circus.

You will learn how to make your fingers vanish and everything you need to know about performing this unique act.

REVIEW:

Coming from Meir Yedid, this video is not so bad. Mr. Yedid's fingers are longer than ...my arms, so don't expect to do everything taught on the video. And since the angles are obviously an issue on close-up

settings, I settled for the vanishing pinkie, the telescopic pinkie and the classic traveling thumb only. It gets a laugh for kids.

OVERALL RATING: acceptable

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=30206&forum=111>

HN Magic Review 24: Five Minutes with a Pocket Handkerchief video/DVD – Quentin Reynolds

AD:

An entire act that fits in your pocket, Featuring the hilarious Magic Mouse. Quentin Reynolds is a professional magician from Dublin, Ireland who has spent the last 25 years perfecting his craft. His specialty is children's shows and the routine taught here is the highlight of his show - a polished five minute act which is accomplished with nothing more than an ordinary pocket-handkerchief.

You are treated to a live performance in front of a classroom of children where Reynolds brings the kids to a frenzy using this handkerchief routine and the many gags and touches which make it a masterpiece. Following the performance you are taught everything you need to know to perform the act.

The routine is a brisk and upbeat sequence of effects which begins with a stretching handkerchief, a series of knots and culminates with the animation of the Magic Mouse. It is adaptable for most performing situations such as stage, parlor, close-up, walk-around, kids, adults, yet it all fits in your pocket and is very easy to do.

Includes:

- Stretching Hank: A handkerchief is stretched to twice its original size.
- The Jumping Hank: A handkerchief repeatedly jumps out of your hands and into the audience.

- Karrell Fox's Knifty-Knot: No matter how hard you try to be a knot in the handkerchief it keeps disintegrating.
- Karrell Fox's No Not: You finally make a knot but it magically unties when a spectator blows on it.
- Stand-Up Hank: The handkerchief is made to stand on end and tail on command.
- The Magic Mouse: The handkerchief is folded into a hat, an iron an earring, a mustache, and finally into a mouse. The mouse is wound up and begins to wiggle its tail. The mouse seems to come to life as it runs up and down your arm, around your neck, and then leaps into the audience - making them scream with fright. The tail of the mouse is pulled and it turns back into a handkerchief, The handkerchief is folded and put back in your pocket, The act is now completely reset for your next show.

In addition to the above you are also taught Frank Garcia's Iron Gag, Stewart Judah's Watch-winder Gag, tips from George Sands, Harry Blackstone, Sr., Dan Garret, Martin Gardner, and tons of jokes, gags, by-play, tidbits and advice, which can only be learned from years of continuous performance. Includes a discussion on making the routine even stronger, and much more.

REVIEW:

When I saw the picture of Meir Yedid on the tape cover, I started cursing.... Fortunately he's only the US distributor, and does not have anything to do with the effects.

Beware - the tricks are for 5-year-old children. For kids show, I guess the effects look good with an appropriate deal of showmanship – the “Animated Mouse” is the highlight of the tape and really involves the audience. Sure you can do it for adults... you can also perform “Run Rabbit Run” for corporate audiences.

OVERALL RATING: acceptable

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=31121&forum=111>

HN Magic Review 23: Kentonism – Kenton Knepper

AD:

This is Kenton's renowned masterwork and his unique styling in the art of suggestion, influence, and apparent "telepathic hypnosis".

Since eight years of age, hypnosis and what seemed to be actual magical, mental powers fascinated Kenton. Over the decades, Kenton Kepper has created and developed certain secret methods - known to but a very few of Kenton's closest friends. These are the exact methods used by Kenton to create absolute awe and fascination in the minds of Kenton's clients.

Kenton has guarded these concepts most jealously. Finally, the full story can be told. What was once legend and myth is now within the grasp of anyone who cares to study and apply these ingenious concepts. So, what is "Kentonism"? What can you do?

With Kentonism you may appear to:

Have a spectator slip into an altered state - just by looking at your business card!

Cause a spectator to choose thoughts and objects based on subliminal suggestion.

Perform a full "hypnosis " type act, without having to learn or do hypnosis

Write thoughts down on a pad of paper, then stand back, and watch as audience members are compelled to do these things!

Apply telepathic and subliminal influence close-up or on stage.

Learn legitimate suggestion techniques, and innovative methods created by Kenton. Includes special "subliminal" art designs to copy for your own business cards.

We know what you usually get. This is not a work that uses "all stooges".

Of course not - this is KENTON. Kenton has incorporated linguistic deception, dual-reality, and actual suggestion into these unusual principles and applications. KENTONISM is a rare look into Mr. Knepper's most secret work. This material is NOT for the magic

hobbyist. This material is NOT a way to get people to date you. This is the real secret work for thinkers and performers. This book is over 60 full size pages in length.

Kenton wanted to be sure that this amazing work was well within the price range of most serious people. While he could have charged a great deal more for these methods, we are offering it for a real steal. The last time we said something like that was when "Wonder Readings" was available, and at only \$100.00 - You know what it goes for these days... Get this before Kenton snaps out of his trance!

REVIEW:

Not one single effect I will use in this book. Maybe because I feel that DR is hardly workable for intimate shows, unless BOTH effects are equally surprising for the audiences [cf. [Real Mind Reading](#) video]. The book also contains graphical designs for your business cards backs (simple psy-forces), new applications of a classic Punx idea (also described in Corinda's Thirteen Steps to Mentalism), and an interesting close-up variation called "Pure Kentonism" which is only hinted at.

Nonetheless, the book is surely worth reading for Kenton's line of thought and for the many psychological subtleties, transferable to other effects.

OVERALL RATING: average

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=31120&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 10: The Raven set (gimmick + video) – Chuck Leach

AD:

The Raven has been called one of the best tricks of the last decade! Perform visual vanishes like you've never seen. Make coins appear, disappear, shrink or change to a different coin or an entirely different object! There are no funny moves or sleights. Simply show your hands

front and back, then wave one over the other and a coin appears or vanishes! It is that easy and natural (and amazing)! Many additional effects with bills, matchbooks, playing cards and a variety of coin effects, as well as the valuable 'Empty Hand Move,' are taught on the video. Perform in a coat, even a short-sleeved shirt.

REVIEW:

The ad is misleading, since the “short sleeves” technique is quite different from the jacket method – the range of motions is obviously limited, and you can’t do the “empty hands move” (i.e. showing you hands front and back before beginning).

With a dark jacket and shirt, the effect looks great even though the angles feel a bit uncomfortable. I only use it as a secret gimmick to reinforce other effects, such as Mike Powers’ [Visual Impossible Penetration](#).

As a side note, I can’t remember where I saw such a physically “arguable” lady in a magic video - but the real beauty lies within, as Mr. Leach reminds us all.

OVERALL RATING: acceptable

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=27624&forum=113>

HN Magic Review 8: Pure Effect - Derren Brown

AD:

Derren Brown, the most radical and original new thinker in the world of mentalism, will take you from excellent close-up magic to the most powerful mind-reading you have ever seen. With flamboyant wit, Derren explains the secrets and techniques that he uses to amaze the experts, drawing from hypnotic skills and breathtaking psychological artistry. This is brand new mindreading without compromise; no use of

billets, envelopes or NW will be found within these pages. This is a book for the serious thinker who would normally disregard 99% of a magic book's contents.

Hardbound With Dust Jacket, 168 Pages

REVIEW:

Much ado about an average book, and too much card work and futile linguistic flourishes for what is supposed to be “Direct Mind Reading”. Part I includes Mr. Brown’s interesting thoughts on mentalism, invisible compromises, anchoring etc. Part II is only devoted to card techniques (totally useless if you don’t do cards), Part III are mainly effects with – guess what – cards.

The book is certainly well produced and well written (in an humorous tongue-in-cheek manner); it could be ok for those who like F***** card tricks.

OVERALL RATING: acceptable

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=23901&forum=110>

Below Average

Magic and mental effects (mostly outdated) that should probably be ignored, considering the abundance of products available out there. But if you really have time and money to spend, or if you are a fan of a particular author...

HN Magic Review 105: Another Book - Karrell Fox

AD:

N/a

REVIEW:

Nicely produced hardbound book from the late Karrel Fox: golden spine, full color laminated jacket, lots of pictures and cartoons.

The contents revolve around comedy magic, focused on presentation and entertainment instead of methodology. There are about 100 tricks with cards, coins, inexpensive props and some mental magic stuff (including a center tear variation).

The methods are aged and poorly described, but a number of presentational ideas, M.C. bits and audience management suggestions could be of some use to the younger generations.

OVERALL RATING: below average

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=93243&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 104: Cut and Restored Credit Card - Mark Leveridge

AD:

The magician displays a small leather wallet inside which is one of his credit cards.

He explains he would like to show something with a similar card but does not want to use his own. So saying the card is returned to the wallet which is slipped back into his pocket.

Having borrowed a suitable card, the magician slips it into a pay envelope, puts the spectator's initials on the envelope flap and then seals the card inside.

Brandishing a pair of scissors, he proceeds to cut the envelope - and therefore the spectator's card - completely in half! With total confidence the magician claims the card will restore itself, despite the fact the envelope is clearly in two separate pieces.

Placing the two sections together, he cuts off the end of the envelope, reaches inside and pulls out - **HALF A CREDIT CARD!**

After much comic by-play, the halves are put away and the performer removes the small wallet he showed at the beginning to offer his own card in exchange.

However, to the surprise of all, the performer's card has vanished and the spectator's **TOTALLY RESTORED CARD** is found inside instead! The spectator removes his card himself to confirm it is indeed his.

Very easy to do, no sleights, no palming, no fuss - highly practical.

REVIEW:

I would be hard pressed to name 10 effects with credit cards – probably because people are always a bit reluctant in handing them out.

To perform this effect, you will need to walk around with special wallets, a pair of scissors and gimmicked envelopes – not something you will do “impromptu” for your friends; it is also awkward to perform in

professional table-hopping situations, since the reset can't be done on the spot. Refills (i.e. envelopes, good for 25 performances) are sold separately.

I thought about routining this one with a few lousy effects I already knew, such as Brad Manuel's [Credit Card Fraud](#), or Tony Antoniou's Credit Card Quickie (in the Ammar's [Easy to Master Money Miracles](#) video series) but abandoned the idea immediately...

OVERALL RATING: below average

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=81704&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 77: Gellerism Revealed – Ben Harris

AD:

Step by step photos and instructions on how to bend keys, cutlery, stop watches, etc. Psychology and method are explained. Also contains an encapsulated history of Uri Geller's activities. This is some of the real work.

REVIEW:

The book (first published in 1982) describes the techniques supposedly used by Uri Geller to perform his paranormal feats: bending spoons and keys, changing the time on a borrowed watch, starting broken watches.

Most of the material is outdated and will appeal to Geller fans only; for updated methods and handlings, Banachek's [Psychokinetic Time](#) and [Psychokinetic Silverware](#) come to mind.

OVERALL RATING: below average

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=56935&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 73: Mind and Matter – Stephen Minch

AD:

A complete departure from the standard books on mentalism, this book deals with Psycho-kinesis or Telekinesis. The ability to move or alter physical objects by willing it with your mind is something an audience will really get excited about. Bend metals, alter the shape of matter, move inanimate objects, interrupt radio waves, and much more. Simple, yet mind-boggling experiments which are suited to the expert on extrasensory perception.

REVIEW:

Published by Micky Hades in 1975. The book includes effects with everyday objects such as keys, pens, flowers, nails etc, achieved through a variety of (well-known) methods but with a common intent: demonstrating the performer's paranormal skills during the Geller era.

Most of the effects are outdated (“the spectator selects a page number by taking a poker chip from a clear bag held by a bulldog clip etc”), but some ideas and psychological tidbits are still valid and could be incorporated into your existing routines.

OVERALL RATING: below average

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=52210&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 46: The Elevator – Peter Loughran

AD:

How many times have you been asked to levitate after the David Blaine TV specials aired? How many times have you wanted to perform a levitation effect, but have feared the limitations, angles, etc? Fear not, because there are NO allusions with THIS illusion! Introducing The Elevator from Peter Loughran, the last word on levitation suspension!

First there came the Balducci Levitation. And then came tons of gimmicked versions that claimed to make the Balducci easier to perform. The problems with these versions were that you needed a coat, a towel, or other cover to shield how the effect worked. Not with Peter Loughran's Elevator!

Imagine, at any time during your act, whether you perform close-up, on stage, or on the street, you simply rise a full 3 - 4 inches above the ground, all without the angle problems and viewing distance restrictions seen in other self-levitations on the market. Simply put, The Elevator is Peter Loughran's new mechanical marvel levitation device that allows you to levitate while facing your spectators, and it can be viewed from the front and the sides! See the photo above!

There are no special shoes used! In fact, you can even perform the illusion wearing sandals or even barefoot! There are no special clothes or baggy pants required, and you can do this inside or outside on wet or dry land without any special lighting required! And get this, there are NO weight limitations! You can even do mid-air rotation, WOW! What other self-levitation can boast all these advantages?

You do not take your shoes off, nor do you lift up on one toe, and you can even show the bottom of your feet before and after the levitation. Please know that this is not a .pdf file, a mere manuscript, or instructional video; you get a specially constructed mechanical device that allows you to perform this miracle anytime, anywhere!

If you are looking for an affordable street levitation that works for real people in real situations, then be sure to check out this incredible and clever levitation device. The Elevator comes complete with special mechanical levitation device, instructional video, and fully detailed manuscript.

REVIEW:

A few critical notes:

- you cannot perform it with people standing at your sides;
- You cannot perform it on any surface;
- It is rather noisy;
- It is very bulky (need rapper trousers or heavy coat to hide it);
- Balance is indeed a problem (would like to see the Mr. Loughran himself levitating without external support for more than half a second).

It is perhaps the best close-up levitation commercially available - but this doesn't mean anything, since the previous items were junk.

OVERALL RATING: below average

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=22143&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 44: Fat free Mentalism – John Riggs

AD:

Mentalism for those who don't like to carry a trunkload of props. Strong mentalism requiring little or no props, the modern day approach to the art. Contents include Your Show, Gimme a Number, PWO Total Prediction, FloraRiggs, Information Steal, Cards of Desire, Q&A Prop, I Am!, The 30 Minute Walk-On Act, I've Got Your Number Too, How to be a Smooth Operator, Business Card Business, Centering Your

Thoughts, Name and Sign Killer, Centers for Readers, Last of the Spike Tricks, The Art of the Read, Body Reading, and Q&A Another Way.

REVIEW:

Innocuous mental magic tricks. Chapter 1 includes a few effects with the Ostin Clip (talk about direct mind reading! “The performer brings out a prediction secured in a bulldog clip”..... man.....), chapter 2 describes some combinations of well-known mentalism methods, while part 3 is dedicated to psychic readings – copied straight from William Sheldon’s body typing principles.

OVERALL RATING: below average

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=16849&forum=15>

HN Magic Review 40: Unfaked Book Test – Val Andrews

AD:

You hand a book to a spectator. Other spectators call out numbers to select a page, line and word. No force, no stooges, no mis-calling. The spectator looks up that page, line and word. You read her mind by telling her **exactly which word she's looking at.**

REVIEW:

The booktest that Al Koran never used...

It can be appreciated by non-English magicians: use your cheap 200-page ungimmicked bestseller and give it away at the end. However, the procedure for the page selection feels too “mathemagic” for me - stick with MOABT if you can.

OVERALL RATING: below average

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=32764&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 26: Creating Material and Making Performances Memorable – Kenton Knepper & Allen Zingg

AD:

This is a book of ART. How to make your performances ART. How to make lasting impressions on your audiences. How to create emotional magic and mentalism. How to find your way of expressing yourself – not about how someone else tells you to do that. This book represents a mutual passion for the creation and performance of magical and mental ART.

As one well known performer put it "If people did only the exercises in this book, it could change magic and mentalism forever!" Kenton Knepper, Allen Zing, Docc Hilford, J. Tank and a privileged few, use this very book as THE reference book for their new shows. This book is that significant. Now you may be one of those privileged few.

If Kenton's Rants Into Raves posed questions, this book is the one with the answers to those questions. Not just theory - but practical applications you can put to USE. In a recent random survey of successful performers in all forms of the performing arts, certain principles were found to be held in common. Amazingly, these same principles are what Kenton and Allen detail in this book. For those who could care less about having original material, or making their performances outstanding, forget this book. But if you want to be your best, if you keep searching for the right material, and to be better than ever before as an artist, then THIS IS FOR YOU.

Besides, there's some great mental effects and innovative sleight of hand technique too. This book even has "pictures." Oh yes, if you think

you can't create your own tricks, you'll find out that you can! Imagine that!

This full size 8 ½ X 11 inch book is over 100 pages in length Tricks and moves are fully explained with over 50 illustrations. There are excerpts from Wonder Words, Wonder Readings, Body of Influence and others, along with completely original material not to be found anywhere else. Here are some of the topics covered in the book:

Communication With Breath, Invisible Actions, Disarming Techniques, Intuitive Actions, Integration of Body, Presentational Concept, Making Sense of Nonsense, Taking Risks, Texture, Creating Creativity, Motivation and Urgency, The Emotional Pattern, Instant Grace, The Authentic Self, Zone Effects, Standing Zarrow, The Elmsley DEAL, Heart Connection, Treasury Prediction, Banachek Revisited, Visual Words Effect, Kenton's Ghost Coins, How Rational Is Art? and more. Newly illustrated, revised and with additional material, at a price less than the original attendees paid...

REVIEW:

Large and disappointing book from the 2 business partners. Part I is a theoretical discussion on artistic creation (with "creative templates" – talk about an oxymoron!!), gestures, body positions (check Leading with your Head instead) and a few linguistic deceptions already explained in the [Wonder Words](#) tapes. Part II includes useless card sleights, while part III consists of a few effects you already know.

OVERALL RATING: below average

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=31122&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 17: The Paper Rose video/DVD – Docc Hilford

AD:

In about ten minutes, this private video lesson will teach you Docc Hilford's impromptu method for making a paper rose, complete with a leaf, from an ordinary cocktail napkin. This is the same bit of business used by pros around the world to upgrade from Coach to First Class, receive superlative service in hotels and restaurants, and generally charm any lady, anywhere.

Our friend Richard Webster used it to save a cruise ship gig, when he discovered that none of his audience could speak English, and he could speak no Chinese!

This is not a trick, but rather one of the most delightful bits of business around. As Docc Hilford tells it, he was initiated into the art by an ancient in Paris — Texas, that is. He has taken this simple (when you know how) bit of business, and turned it into something of a trademark.

As with any great bit of business, there is more to it than just knowing how to do it - you need the correct presentation. Without the right shtick, you're just juggling a piece of paper! On this video, Docc shows you how he does it, giving you the kind of input you need to devise your own presentation.

This is not a trick or a mental miracle. It is not a cure for cancer. It *is* one of the most charming bits of business that you can add to your repertoire. You can have **Docc's Paper Rose** for just \$24.95.

REVIEW:

As usual, unbelievably overpriced video from the Floras. The patter is not particularly convincing, but the folding procedure is easily understandable and – let's face it – the effect always get a great reaction from the ladies.

OVERALL RATING: clearly below average (buy it only if you can't find the effect anywhere else!)

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=30591&forum=111>

HN Magic Review 13: Classics – Bruce Bernstein

AD:

Bruce Bernstein has collected 7 of his finest mentalism creations over the past 20 years. These are the effects that have been consistently mentioned by other performers and creators as their favorites. Contents include Trans-Premonition, Thought Card Across, Bernstein Center Tear, Couples, Scripted Thoughts, All Shook Up, and Masklyn's Ring.

REVIEW:

A good part of the book is devoted to F##### playing cards. You also get a routine with borrowed coins (as a side note for the ever expanding European Union: nope, will not work with Euros now), an interesting and more visual version of Maskelyn's Ring, and the infamous Bernstein's Center Tear method.

OVERALL RATING: below average

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=30589&forum=110>

Weak

The main difference with the “Junk” category is that these items are not particularly funny. Besides, something could be saved: a single notion, a nice drawing or picture, a quote...

HN Magic Review 97: Center Tear Bill – Craig R. Dickson

AD:

The cleanest, most direct, torn and restored bill we've seen!

Show a one-dollar bill on both sides. Have the bill initialed by a spectator.

Very openly, fold the bill in half.

Tear the center (George Washington's picture) off of the bill. Either vanish the center or burn it.

With no false moves of any kind, snap the bill open and it is restored!!

The bill is clean and examinable!!

Center Tear Bill is great. You can learn it in five minutes; and you will do it all the time!!

REVIEW:

The classic Rick Johnsson's “Dining on Dollars” trick, combined with the setup of David Harkey / Jay Sankey's “East Meets West”. The modus operandi is different than the version described in the “[Easy to Master Money Miracles](#)” videos, and the trick comes with that “special something” that could be used in other effects.

The bill can be given out at the end – not only shown, as in the Ammar version – but I would recommend the latter for its cleaner display.

OVERALL RATING: weak

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=11251&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 94: Dish-alicious – Daryl

AD:

Do You Want to Work Restaurants? Are You A Table Hopper? Then Don't Be Caught Without This Stunning Miracle! **EFFECT:** You bite a piece out from an ordinary dinner plate, show the piece and then magically restore the plate before returning it to the customer! Finishes clean.

REVIEW:

It seems a clever gimmick, for an original quickie. The trick however cannot be performed close-up, as most of BA-based effects: you will need proper distance, lighting and clothing. The “table hopping” issue stated in the ad is plain BS (unless you perform in a dark cave or for a blind audience) – another one for the drawer.

OVERALL RATING: weak

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=70824&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 91: Ah ha! – David Harkey / Eric Anderson

AD:

Watch a book of matches burst into flame without touching it. Unlock a car of any make by pointing at it. Learn a false shuffle and bridge you

will actually use. Drop a borrowed coin into your drink, bringing the liquid to a boiling froth, then spoon out the coin, bent like a used bottle cap. Turn a pack of cards into solid stone, splitting like a rock when you drop it. Automatically switch decks under the noses of your audience, using subtlety rather than sleight of hand. Pluck the petals from a daisy, ending on she loves me *not*. Then blow on the flower, making one petal reappear. She loves me! Five years in the making, here is a collection of street - tested magic with calling cards, coffee cups, matches, coins, bills, rubber bands, newspapers, playing cards. pencils and more.

More than twenty effects in all.

REVIEW:

21 effects – and about half of them are F##### card tricks. I have yet to see an honest ad stating, “this book mostly contains F##### card tricks”. It would be easy, though: count the number of effects with cards, count the total number of effects, divide the two numbers, and insert a disclaimer: “this book contains 42% of F##### card tricks”.

About the other half: I was VERY disappointed by the lack of original methods and presentational ideas, despite the imaginative plots described in the sales blurb. The book does not fall into the “junk” category only because of the care shown in the production (nice hardbound with dust cover, beautiful layout by the author).

I suggest you stick with “Simply Harkey”.

OVERALL RATING: weak

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=27135&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 88: The riddle of Chung Ling Soo, Chinese conjuror
– Will Dexter

AD:

N/A. Published by Arco Publishing Co.

REVIEW

The life and mysterious death of “Chinese” conjuror William Robinson, from New York City... First published in 1954, the book includes the biography of the artist, a detailed description of his stage shows from a layman perspective (no methods explained), the death-defying “Bullet Catching” stunt, a brief digression on Anneman’s death, brief excerpts of historic magazines (the Magic Wand, HMM, Mahatma etc.) and an annex on Asian conjuring.

Historical value, probably.

OVERALL RATING: weak

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=60937&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 86: Elastrix vol. 1 – Ed Mishell & Abraham Hurwitz

AD:

The largest collection of tricks with rubber bands ever produced. Within the covers you will find Penetrations, Restorations, Linkings, Multiplications and Sheer Magic with Common Rubber Bands. These are baffling effects you can perform anywhere, anytime.

REVIEW:

Tons of rubber bands magic tricks: a few are still valid, most are outdated, and others have always been outrageously silly. It takes a great deal of time to learn this type of manipulative stunts with written instructions – this is where videos truly come in handy.

I would suggest the Ammar [Classic Renditions n.2](#) video and the Harlan's [Rubber Bands Magic](#) trilogy instead.

OVERALL RATING: weak

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=10160&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 85: Altered States – David Regal

AD:

An easy-to-do, offbeat card routine that never fails to impress. A card, selected from a blue-backed deck and signed across its face by a spectator is torn in half. One half is placed in a blue card box and the other in a red card box. The spectator's partial signature is on the face of both halves. The card boxes are shaken and the cards dumped out. The half that came out of the blue box still has a blue back, but the card out of the red box now has a red back. The two halves fit together and so do the two parts of the signature. Everything can be immediately examined and the two half-cards can be given to spectators as souvenirs.

Comes with a dozen custom Bicycle cards which were specially printed by the U.S. Playing Card Co. and four pages of clear instructions with 17 photographs. Can be repeated three times with different cards. Easy.

REVIEW:

Altered states... This brings back wonderful memories... This trick was part of a Christmas gift (“I liked the name”, she said). Amongst the thousands of books, videos and gimmicks commercially available, I had to receive a F***** card trick from Meir Yedid!!

Anyway, you get basic instructions for the effect described, a few specially printed Bicycle cards (half red, half blue) and the picture of Mr. Yedid smiling back at you.

OVERALL RATING: useless card trick

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=37168&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 81: Making Contact – Satori

AD:

Contact Mindreading, sometimes called ‘Muscle Reading’ can be, when correctly executed, the closest thing to ‘real’ mindreading you can get. This little book has what looks like the ‘real’ work on this fascinating subject. Years ago I played with Contact Mindreading and had some small success with it. A wonderful and powerful demonstration when it works. Satori appears to have given up all the information anyone would need to insure that success is near 100%. Solid book with needed info on this obscure subject.

REVIEW:

A 68-page softbound publication from H&R Magic Books, which could have taken a couple of paragraphs. From this point of view, the book sadly reminds me of Mark Strivings' "[Miracles from the Hip](#)": an age-old concept excruciatingly expanded and repeated over and over and over until it borders the unbearable.

Satori did not add ONE single idea to the existing muscle reading books (such as Fitzkee's Contact Mind Reading Expanded, Schatz' Practical Contact Mind Reading and Nelson's Hellstromism - published half a century ago).

After the long, worn out historical overview, Satori reminds us of the well-known wrist hold (first exposed at the end of the nineteenth century) and painfully describes an interminable number of DUH! examples:

- Finding an object on a table
- Finding an object in a room
- Finding a person in a room
- Finding an object in a house
- Finding a seat in a theater
- Etc.

Vol. 2 will probably include the following routines:

- Finding a softbound book in a library
- Finding an hardbound book in a library
- Finding an under-aged brunette in a Nevada brothel
- Etc.

The publisher has to justify the price of the book by increasing the number of pages, but here the whole book is a filler. I pretend something more than a nice layout and the repackaging/regurgitating of age-old information.

It would be tempting to label the book as "useless": however, its pseudo-scientific feel, the care shown in the publication and the fact that absolutely nothing is exposed in terms of magical methods, gimmicks or psychological subtleties (apart from the single Hellstromism technique obviously) allows you to leave it on your coffee table and start a targeted conversation.

OVERALL RATING: Back of the room item

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=56940&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 72: The Web – Jim Pace

AD:

Jim Pace's "The Web" will out-impact any other effect in your repertoire. For those that want to go for the jugular and take no prisoners, the Web gets a more visceral reaction than any card effect ever created! In fact, there are some people you simply should not do this effect for because it starts out so innocently, yet ends with such a startling reaction! The effect, this makes 'em jump up and scream! Four blank cards are counted onto the spectator's palm up hand. Then pictures of spider webs appear and disappear from the faces of the cards. To conclude, the spectator is asked to wave his hands over the cards. As he does, he discovers a large, realistic spider on the back of his hand. The spider is undetectable, and you are way ahead! At the right time, in the right place, this receives an unprecedented response!

REVIEW:

Largely overrated. Comes with specially printed cards, the plastic spider (with a special "extension" to make it more realistic) and the "gimmick". It is a cheap way to get a quick reaction, to expose the [Card on Ceiling](#) and to suggest that you are carrying around props and hidden gimmicks.

OVERALL RATING: prank

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=48077&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 70: The Xpert Device – Neil Tobin

AD:

"Neil Tobin's device is an astounding accomplishment and will be embraced by magicians and mentalists - I love it!" -Ben Harris

An Indispensable New Utility Device for Mentalists and Magicians. Discover a new utility device, one that's already being used by performing mentalists and magicians who appreciate its understated power and seemingly limitless possibilities. The Xpert makes possible a wide variety of miraculously direct and virtually sleight-free effects, including:

Out of Body Xpert

A borrowed coin is chosen from a handful of change, marked with a participant's initial, has its date noted, and is tightly held in anybody's hands- yet the performer invisibly extracts the coin; it is soon found in the pocket of another participant some distance away!

Xpert Epic

The performer clearly and boldly numbers the blank sides of three postcards one through three. Picking up each numbered postcard in proper sequence, the performer shows the number on top and then writes his thoughts beneath. At the conclusion, all three postcards are shown to have correct predictions and may be given away afterward. No forces necessary.

Xpert X-ed Card

A card is freely selected (no force) and kept facedown while its back is visibly marked with a bold X. The cards are mixed, and the performer not so amazingly locates the X-ed card. But then comes the surprise-although the performer is no sleight-of-hand wizard, he is a mentalist: the X-ed card is turned face up to reveal the words "My Prediction"

printed on its face. All the cards may be examined or given away. Instant reset, ends clean, no switches.

Xpert Vampire Hunter

A participant selects and signs a card to represent her in the role of "vampire hunter." To represent a vampire, another card is signed with an ankh, the ancient symbol of the immortal; it is then lost within a packet of cards. The participant inserts here card face up into the packet anywhere she chooses: if she's a successful vampire hunter, the vampire will be found just beneath her card. But when the cards are spread, the vampire card is gone! Yet she's successful after all-her signed card is turned over, and inscribed on its back is the vampire symbol! This card is given to the participant as a truly bizarre souvenir. No specially printed cards, no palming, no swamis.

You receive the staple-bound, 16-page, illustrated manuscript and gimmick.

REVIEW:

Mr. Tobin took a fragile concept from Kenton Knepper's [X book](#) (see relevant review), and slightly improved it by gimmicking the prop. The English writings on it will not facilitate the work of foreign magicians.

“Miss the first buttonhole, and you won't finish buttoning up.” (Goethe)

OVERALL RATING: weak

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=30760&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 62: Linked 4 life – Andy Leviss

AD:

Andy Leviss takes this "classic" plot to a whole new level. You take two (and only two!) clearly separate rubberbands, touch them together, and they visibly link in slow-motion. Then, without any switches, sudden movements, or anything else, you immediately hand them to an audience member to keep in their permanently linked state. Unlike other similar methods, "Linked 4 Life" is clean as a whistle- not to mention deviously simple!

Comes with detailed manuscript clearly illustrated by magician/artist Shaun Robison and autographed by Andy Leviss, himself!

REVIEW:

A few stapled pages with self-delusional security features. While Bernard Sim's "[Really Linked](#)" looked great on video but was quite inappropriate in real-life performances, Linked 4 life is practical but visually poor: the initial display ("two clearLY separate rubberbands") looks phony and undermines the effect.

OVERALL RATING: weak

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=37731&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 52: Pen-omenon – J. Mirage

AD:

You place an ordinary pen on the edge of a table or flat surface. You show your hands to be completely empty free of any magnets or strings. Then you can cause the pen to swivel left or right without touching it!

The pen can even be made to spin in a circle. You can move the pen fast or slow. The pen is apparently under your complete control, and everything may be closely examined at any time!

No Threads, Magnets, Weights, Blowing

Nothing is attached to the pen

REVIEW:

An age-old principle, already explained in classic texts such as the Tarbell Course. You get a regular Paper-Mate, and a piece of paper briefly describing a method a 10-year old will immediately recognize. Some may want to briefly explain the trick to the audience, before using a loop or a PK pen...

OVERALL RATING: weak

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=28257&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 49: Who wants one, say I – Tom Osborne

AD:

A complete 14 page manual on the art of card spinning and scaling and boomerang cards. Techniques, grips, spins, special stunts, etc. plus a complete routine all laid out for you to perform. Here is the work on this art that is so often requested yet this book is rarely seen or even heard of. It's all in this spiral bound book.

REVIEW:

This old booklet teaches you in details how to throw a playing card in boomerang style and in straight line. Yes, that's it.

Still, you have that smell from the '40s...

OVERALL RATING: obsolete

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=34143&forum=73>

HN Magic Review 41: Miracles from the hip – Mark Strivings

AD:

Advertised in Mark Strivings' catalogue – could not find it on the web. It is a treatise on Pocket Writing.

REVIEW:

Mr. Strivings' challenge probably consisted in writing 50 pages on PW. He indeed achieved his goal, thoroughly creating inexistent problems and solving them with zealous accuracy. In the "extensive practice exercises" for example, Strivings' contributions consist in letting us know that we can practice PW anywhere, anytime, in the subway, in your office, while talking to someone etc... He then offers us 2 pages of words we could practice with (one word per line!!). I will soon release my own booklet, describing NEW practicing locations (including recently renovated grocery stores) and 50 different words to PW (available through Meir Yedid).

I feel the explanations given in his [Mobile Mentalism](#) ("What a Great Out") were more than exhaustive.

OVERALL RATING: useless

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=32765&forum=15>

HN Magic Review 34: Really Linked – Bernard Sim

AD:

Imagine the response you'll get when two separate rubber bands really link together! It's now possible with Bernard Sim's "Really linked."

Two rubber bands are held, one at the fingertips of each hand. The bands magically link together and are handed out for immediate examination. Both hands are shown to be absolutely clean.

REVIEW:

The beginning of the effect is David Berger's Hypnotic Link (also published in Dan Harlan's [Magic with Rubber Bands](#) trilogy): the bands then "link" and are briefly shown to the audience. The demo video looks very good, but the setup is awkward and cannot be done on the spot; the cleanup move is impractical unless you have full space control.

My advice: buy the Harlan videos, you even get to see the wonderful L&L Tania Vasina in her teens.

OVERALL RATING: weak

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=22759&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 33: The Joining – Jeff Pierce

AD:

Jeff Pierce has put together a 6 page PDF document containing his ideas on linking a finger ring to a rubberband.

This document basically contains three sections:

"The Joining" - How to cause a ring to almost visibly jump onto a rubberband.

"The Un-Joining" - This allows you to have a spectator pull the linked ring off of the rubberband themselves.

"Rubber Band Split" - This is a bonus item in which a single rubberband is split into two.

REVIEW:

The effect is basically Chris Kenner's Missing Link (described in his "Out of Control" book, and also published in Dan Harlan's [Magic with Rubber Bands](#) video trilogy), using a ring instead of another band. The unlinking procedure IMHO can give away the method.

OVERALL RATING: weak

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=15678&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 28: ImMAKulate Ring Flight – MAK Magic

AD:

The magician borrows a spectator's ring and places it into his hand, which is then closed. INSTANTLY the hand is opened and the RING HAS VANISHED? The performer removes a key case from his pocket. From the key case, he drops the keys and hanging among the keys is the borrowed ring. RING FLIGHT is precision-made. Very smooth and silent operation.

REVIEW:

Forget the concepts of “Attention to details”, “Consistency”, “Congruency”: you get a bulky item, with the “hot” ring different from the others (!!!!!), a gimmick eternally melted into the leather and problematic angles to work with.

How to ruin a great classic with a junky prop. Fortunately, Beauty is greater than the recognition of symmetry...

OVERALL RATING: remains immaculate in my drawer

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=31124&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 27: Live In Lecture, MIME 1a – Kenton Knepper

AD:

The rumors are true. There does indeed exist a special set of unusual "lecture notes" by Kenton Knepper. These "notes" do in truth contain some of Kenton's most cherished methods and insights. Yes, there really is a section on "Milton Erickson and The Mysteries" within these notes, complete with practical applications.

It is true Kenton wrote the notes "in a special manner" which others will have to discover for themselves. There are a great many layers to this little treatise on magic. Here are a few of the more obvious attractions:

Unpublished performance material, including a masterpiece in emotion from Kenton's stage show. You can do this stand-up too.

Two "readings" style principles you CAN and WILL do instantly.

A killer "Cutting The Aces" nearly anyone can do with great ease.

The Milton/Kenton "Spontaneous Magic In Two Easy Steps" – A principle that blows audiences entirely away. This is TRUE magic.

The real work on how Kenton apparently creates instantaneous "trance"-like states both close-up and on stage. These are Kenton's most succinct and to the point instructions ever on how he uses these Ericksonian principles in real world work, and how you can as well - no "stooges".

Kenton's secret one liners about creating "trance states" and spectator cooperation. Also discover how Kenton moves people to change during his performances. It is wonderfully effortless thanks to Dr. Erickson.

Included too is the simple formula Kenton uses in his work to ensure deep impact and success - fully revealed and thoroughly explained. And that is all we are allowed to "hint" at here, says Mr. Knepper firmly.

Here is what we can say: Others may attempt to describe themselves what Kenton has put into a few, easy to understand words. Kenton has already revealed in this work what many claim to be revealing for the first time in their books. J. Tank says it is without doubt Kenton's finest collection of written work - ever. As the introduction states, "This is a book about YOU. It may appear to be a book about me, but that's an illusion..." You have never read ANYTHING quite like this before in magic.

If you are a fan of Wonder Words, this is a must. If you have a passion for Kenton's REAL work and "REAL" magic, then you will have to have this without the slightest doubt. It is truly earth-shaking and inspiring material. If you've been waiting for Kenton to drop his guard, here it is. It's a risky thing for Kenton to do all that he has done with this booklet, but

even this Kenton uses as an insightful lesson in print.

Kenton doesn't "do" lecture notes. These are not "notes" but full blown descriptions of Kenton's work and stunning methods.

Here is just one comment from one gentleman who saw some of this work in action at a Kenton lecture in Phoenix. So many who sat in total awe at the Phoenix lecture could not believe that EVERYTHING they had witnessed was going to be described in detail in the "notes". One man stood up and remarked, "When are you going to stop making the REAL

work and REAL magic so easy? Soon we will have no need for funny looking boxes, and the dealers will be blaming YOU. You know that, don't you? I am grateful mind you, but the dealers are going to be coming after you for this one"!

Of course that is one person's opinion. Some others happen to agree. No, nothing in here is on Kenton's videotape. This is DIFFERENT work. This is MAGICAL work. Oh yes, there is one more thing...

Tank only somewhat jokingly suggested a price of \$600.00 for these. He did insist on Kenton respecting the work and not allowing it out cheaply to "just anyone". But Kenton wished to keep the price within certain guidelines. You may now obtain a copy of this very special and intense booklet, comb-bound, 35 pages at 8 ½" x 11" size, with cover art by renowned artist Johanna Pieterman, with Kenton's signature on the inside cover as well to further ensure collectible status, with all the REAL work and thoughts within this astounding booklet.

REVIEW:

Fragile booklet. A lot of hyped BS, a few interesting applications of Milton Erickson's techniques, a bedtime story from Bandler&Grinder's "Structure of Magic" (actually borrowed from John Fowles' "The Magus") and a couple of useless card tricks.

OVERALL RATING: weak

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=31123&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 22: The X-Book – Kenton Knepper

AD:

What is "X"? Well if we told you that, you wouldn't believe the miracles in this booklet. That would be like telling you what a thumbtip or nailwriter is, and then expect you to understand how important these tools really are. We wish we could easily describe "X" and it's real practical worth, but we cannot. We've tried:

Using the "X" factor Kenton details amazing effects in this book - over a dozen - including pieces straight from Kenton's act. Just one of the tricks in this work is being sold for about as much as the entire book.

Kenton's special use of linguistics, multiple-reality ploys and "somethings" make for the sensations the audience sees. The "somethings" are not the big secret. What Kenton does with them IS.

Imagine giving a spectator a pair of "X-Ray Glasses" that apparently allows her to see into a pocket or cardbox. The glasses can be examined. There is nothing to ditch, palm or sneak out. Another spectator seemingly uses her intuition to pick the one unmarked coin from others donated and initialed by audience members. The coins are then handed back to the owners - no coin switch required. Or a spectator chooses which bottle of three is the safe bottle - two are "poisoned". She easily chooses the correct "clean and safe" bottle, as the other two poisoned ones have large X marks on them. An X bottles may even be handed out to another spectator -to examine and drink if they dare! No, no NW.

One of Kenton's favorites is his DVD prediction in which a spectator "sees" the prediction the performer recorded on the disk in advance - without a DVD player! The DVD is given away as a souvenir.

Included is Docc Hilford's amazing Traveler effect: A spectator travels through time, and upon her return chooses three postcards in order. Each postcard predicts the exact order in which the spectator would select them!

"X" also includes wild premises of card predictions, and plenty of other surprising notions that will INSPIRE you. Loads of workable items crammed into around twenty five full size pages. This is stuff you can

and will DO. From the mystical to the humorous, the subtle to the most bold, you will find many items of amazement in Kenton's "X". As brilliant as you would expect, at a price you wouldn't. Let "X" hit the spot for you too.

Your audience and fellow performers will be at a loss to explain... "X"!

REVIEW:

“What is X”? It is a disappointing little booklet using markers and DR, based on Terry Rogers’ Wipe Out (not credited). If you already read all of Kenton’s previous stuff, very few new ideas can be found here, apart from the basic marker method and the relevant DR (stage) applications...

The Hilford’s effect is well thought of, but it uses your own prepared laminated postcards (OWN, PREPARED, LAMINATED, postCARDS).

OVERALL RATING: weak

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=30698&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 19: Rants into Rave – Kenton Knepper

AD:

In a series of essays penned by Kenton for his own personal use, Kenton reveals his innermost thoughts on celebrity status, moving an audience, reciprocity, associations and expectations, and much, much more. Rants has become the perfect companion book to Wonder Words Volume Two, and Wonder Words Volume Three. For anyone who has the Wonder Words series, this manuscript is a must.

For those who don't have Wonder Words yet, this manuscript is complete in itself. The insights presented will make your mind whir with excitement and awesome possibilities...

BE WARNED: While only 28 full size pages in length, most people cannot read but four or five pages in a sitting! This material is that powerful. Put these concepts into action, and you will understand why Kenton calls this incredible work "Rants INTO RAVES"! Your audience will be raving about you too!

REVIEW:

As usual, over hyped and overpriced booklet from Kenton Knepper. Nice nominalizations on the cover, and a few insights (such as the rule of reciprocity) that were not explicitly revealed in the [Wonder Words](#) tapes. I feel that those essays should have been inserted in a larger publication, instead of being sold separately at this outrageous price.

OVERALL RATING: weak

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=30690&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 18: Sorcerer Series 1,2 and 3 – Kenton Knepper

AD:

Kenton Knepper has done it again! Definitely not the "same old thing," the Sorcerer Series contains breakthrough work in magic and mentalism for everything from close-up to stage performances. New concepts, new routines, new presentations, new props and new methods which have, until now, been kept quite secret.

Volume One

Kenton's Gem Production - Gems fade into view at your fingertips as if literally appearing from nowhere. Direct from Kenton's stand-up act, this production is easy, beautiful and cleverly uses psychology.

The FANTastical Ribbon - A cloth fan is displayed with a bright silk streamer woven through its ribs and clothe. Suddenly, the ribbon instantly penetrates the fan! The ribbon is draped over the fan but somehow has the ribbon running through it again! The ribbon can be slowly pulled through the fan-everyone sees it openly from both sides - the fan is unharmed. Then this routine gets really wild! You'll have to read the rest. We can say that at the end the fan seems to animate itself as it frees itself from the ribbon - gorgeous.

New Liquid Principles - Reach into your pocket and remove a drink. No covers. You may even vanish the drink but not the glass! This is different. New "Multum in Parvo" in which the liquid really does increase and fills an aquarium in the end. Diabolical secrets you can and will use. Many of these items are right out of well-known and respected acts.

Plus Sealed Miser's Dream Jars and Goblets - Smashing a Super Ball, making gold appear, grow, become bejeweled and then vanish, the fade in quarter production, real "woofle dust" for grown-ups and "stardust", manipulation quartz crystals and how to make them, the secret to Kenton's manipulation of the ringing balls (you won't believe this!), a jumping bill monte, a ring that reappears on the finger in mid-air, a... well, you get the idea!
And more!

Volume Two

Kontrol Kard - Imagine a playing card that can become a double- face, double-back, long, wide, thick, spittle, chameleon and multiple card control card due to an amazing secret substance! No roughing fluid or rubber cement, these special cards have made Kenton look like one of the top card control performers and now you can, too!

Kling String - Stop Kenton on the street and he'll have this with him! Imagine a showing a piece of thread that is three inches long which then becomes three feet long - with no sleeves and no steals.

No Salt - Walk into a restaurant and pick up a salt or cheese shaker. With no other props or preparation, you make the salt or cheese disappear! Nothing extra, no lapping, no mess, no hassle and amazingly easy.

Kenton's Postcards - Spectators think of a number and a postcard-they tell no one. The performer then proceeds to tell what is in each spectator's mind. Not only that, he has predicted it, too!

Newell and Kenton's Mental Any Card at Any Number - This one has had people in Hollywood buzzing for years. For the first time ever, the secret and full routine is revealed. A deck of cards is shuffled by the performer and handed to a spectator for safe keeping. A second deck is given to another spectator who shuffles themselves. She is told to freely think of any card and any number from the face up cards. She sees the cards are all different and admits that her choices are entirely free and unprepared. Now the miracle. The first spectator deals in his deck to the number called out by the second spectator. The card at that number is turned over. It is the second spectator's card! No one on stage knows how this happened. No "stooges". The deck can be taken home as a gift after dealing to the climax. It is not a trick deck. This effect alone is worth far more than the price of this manuscript.

Volume Three

Steve Cohen's Three Point Pulse Stopping - From Steve's famed act, revealed for the first time. The performer stops his pulse, then it comes back again, in sequence, and at the points of the body chosen by the spectator. This is challenge pulse control. Incredible, awe-inspiring effect with a devious solution you will love to do!

Kenton's "When Time Stands Still" - What some touring mentalists have called "an instant classic" can now be yours. Part of this secret was revealed to a very select group of performers and it created quite a stir. Now you get all the details never given before. Complete with Kenton's favorite presentation, pulses and clocks stop - without harm to either!

Dowser's Dream - Spectators pour various amounts of water into cups and cover them. The performer may be out of the room or in another part of the theatre. Still, using his dowsing rods, the performer is able to say which cups have water in them - what amount and level of water each cup has - all accurately and without stooges, cameras, etc. Do it impromptu if you like!

Half-Baked Mentalism - A roll or examined and uncut loaf of bread is brought to the performer. He holds his hands near the center of the bread. Although the bread is seen undamaged, it is cut open. There in the middle, where the performer held his hands, is a burn mark inside the very center of the bread!

Plus - The full work on the Reversed Polarity Metaphor Spiel, Charcoal Scrying, The Center Piece center tear vase, Phony One Ahead, Pulling Tales and more.

REVIEW:

Very, very disappointing stuff. Probably my expectations were too high, but the last thing I want from Kenton is learning some Lota Bowl (or other stage illusions) advices or the best way to slice a rubber ball and produce a fake quartz crystal. I would suggest mentalists to purchase only the last volume, which has a few insights on the pulse/watch stopping effects, and an interesting microwave application.

OVERALL RATING: weak

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=30689&forum=110>

HN Magic Review 7: Credit Card Fraud – Brad Manuel

AD:

The magician borrows a credit card and as he explains the dangers of handing out a credit card so freely, begins to apparently memorize the number. Quickly turning the card over he explains that all the information related to the spectator's account is contained in the magnetic strip across the back, and it would be very dangerous if anyone got their hands on it. The magician then proceeds to peel the strip off the card! He quickly tells the spectator not to worry, as he would never really do such a thing and presses the strip back onto the card, sealing it down into place! The card is then handed back to the spectator completely unharmed!

Easy To Do
Universal Gimmick Works On All Credit Cards
Custom Made Gimmick

REVIEW:

The name says it all.

Nice packaging, well produced gimmick, not for me. I don't know how long the gimmick will last, be careful not to strip it too far away...

I own very few effects specifically dealing with credit cards (I remember "[Cut and Restored Credit Card](#)" from Mark Leveridge, and a gag in Ammar's [Money Miracles](#) videos): if you are looking for a quick close-up trick of this kind it might be tolerable for you.

OVERALL RATING: weak

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=30490&forum=109>

JUNK

An enjoyable collection of crap. I do not regret buying any of this stuff; smiles are always around the corner.

HN Magic Review 93: Super Neck Cracker (Bone Crusher) – Tom Burgoon

AD:

Gimmick & Book Combo Deal.

This wonderful novelty item used by Tom Burgoon in his show for many years will allow you to audibly break your neck, your arm, or any bone within your reach. Complete with Tom's personal handling for this shocking and very comedic gag item.

"This is one of the funniest gags known to man!" - Doc Eason
Completely Safe!

REVIEW:

The gimmick is as far as you can imagine from being flesh colored - and we all enjoy the bright, flashy colors of secretly palmed gimmicks. The "book" is a single A4 page (!!!) with a few silly ideas and cartoons from Tom's brother. The setup/reset is noisy (the same sound of the effect, actually) and can't be done on the spot.

Stick with your plastic cup...

OVERALL RATING: Junk

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=70822&forum=113>

HN Magic Review 90: Liquidizer – Klamm the Magic Man

AD:

From Klamm the Magic Man comes the truly amazing **Liquid-izer**. For the pro who wants the most startling effect; for the beginner who wants to be an "instant expert" at sleight of hand. **Liquid-izer** lets you do all these effects:

An Udder Mystery -- Make a fist of one hand, with your thumb sticking up. As you turn the hand over and stroke your thumb, a tiny stream of real milk gushes forth! They actually see the milk squirting from your thumb! *Dehydrated Water* -- Hold up an empty glass, which you explain is full of dehydrated water! To demonstrate that it has all the properties of real water, including the ability to put out a real fire, reach for a match. Accidentally the glass is knocked over! Quickly mop up the imaginary liquid with a handkerchief. When you wring the handkerchief out into the glass, real water is produced! *Insta-Shot* -- Anytime you want, pick up a napkin and roll it into a tube. From the tube, pour out a full shot of your favorite beverage! Then toss out the napkin for examination! No pulls, tubes, or bulky apparatus. You can even use the Klam's **Liquid-izer** as a long-pour salt gimmick.

REVIEW:

You get a flesh-painted bottle wrapped in toilet paper and a sheet of (involuntarily) hilarious instructions. I laughed hard with this one – well worth its price.

The best part of the trick is the toilet paper, which you could recycle in any way you fancy.

OVERALL RATING: totally ridiculous

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=61881&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 83: Coin Holder – Tannen Magic

AD:

Sure and safe! This coin holder holds six coins securely regardless of how you move & bounce around. Yet the coins are at your fingertips at a touch. The pin allows you to locate it where it is most convenient for your routine.

REVIEW:

No coating is provided, thus allowing the performer to constantly hear the coins talking (probably to make sure they're still in the holder...)

The holder is made in shiny golden metal for increased visibility.

OVERALL RATING: horrifying

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=56941&forum=113>

HN Magic Review 74: Clipped – John T. Sheets

AD:

A paper clip and a business card are introduced. The paper clip is balanced on the edge of the business card and then magically melts right through the card! This impossibility can then be handed to a spectator for examination and left in this altered state!

- **Awesome Climax**
- **Business Card Can Be Given Out In This Altered State**

REVIEW:

The gimmick looks different from the regular duplicates (that's always a nice touch). The effect is dangerously elementary: with very little practice, you should be able to fool a sleepy child and proudly hand him your business card.

OVERALL RATING: the name should be "ripped"

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=56933&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 65: Linking rubber bands – George Murray / Norm Nielsen

AD:

Couldn't find the ad anymore (I can guess why). It is a linking rubber bands effect (distributed by Norm Nielsen), in which the linked bands may be examined with a microscope by the spectator after the "linking".

REVIEW:

You get the linked set and a clear forcing bag. The gimmicked bands are too thick and large to be used in other effects, and obviously do not match the regular bands inside the bag.

Save your money and buy some super glue.

OVERALL RATING: junk

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=44240&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 53: EM Pocket Charger – Mark Allen

AD:

Pocket Charger is the missing link, it is dynamic and discreet. It will make all your performances soar, especially your Penomenon performances. The EM Pocket Charger's revolutionary design does that special something to the pen that allows you to move the pen as if it's inhabited by spirits from another the great beyond!

You can perform many effects with the EMPC such as:

A spectator secretly chooses any hour of the day and then you draw a clock face on a piece of paper or table napkin. You then produces six coins and places them into a stack in the center of the clock. A straw is placed on top of the coins, acting as the hand of the clock and you cause the straw to mysteriously spin, stopping when it points right at the spectator's chosen hour!

Other telekinetic uses may be explored and discovered with the Pocket Charger that has taken the magic scene by storm!

REVIEW:

Fantastically hyped: an inconsistent companion for the overpriced [Penomenon](#).

I may have found an alternative use for this one, but it could offend a few.

OVERALL RATING: electrifying crap

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=5598&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 45: Pocket Levitator – Andrew Mayne

AD:

With Andrew Maine's Pocket Levitator you can levitate yourself any time and any where! The gimmick fits into YOUR POCKET, yet you rise in the air. It's ready all the time! Comes to you with an instruction booklet as well, including five different ways to use The Pocket Levitator. "Quick, impromptu, cute, effective and a great buy.

REVIEW:

Awkward set-up, awkward clean up. The effect looks like your body is shortening (could be a good thing if you re-label the effect properly...).

You might also be able to recycle the gimmick for other purposes and save a few pennies.

OVERALL RATING: true junk

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=33495&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 42: Universal Holder - Alexander de Cova

AD:

Multiple award winner Alexander de Cova came up with the ultimate... the Universal Holder!

Ingeniously designed to act as a third hand to secretly deliver you any small object in your hand. Use the Universal Holder for baffling productions or loadings. Secretly obtain silks, jumbo and standard size

coins, cigarettes, thimbles, prepared paper (like switching in an origami fold), cards, jumbo cards, streamers, Fantasio-style canes and candles, sponge balls, flash accessories, rope, magnets, spring flowers, rubber products, mouth coils, or any of your favorite gimmicks — all delivered instantly right into your hands!

Because of its special design, the Universal Holder grips all different sizes and shapes of objects secure until needed. Use it whenever you have to secretly obtain, add or steal something. This is the holder that you've been looking for. This is the holder used by professionals over the years!

- **Universal Holder is made of durable plastic to last a lifetime!**
- **Can be used for close-up, stand-up or the stage!**
- **Can be attached to the body or prop!**
- **Comes complete with 2 Universal Holders!**

REVIEW:

Mine came with only one holder, and is made of metal (not durable plastic). I purchased it in the early nineties, maybe it is a different version. Anyway, it is basically a F##### CARD DECK holder (possibly cased deck). And I don't do cards...

OVERALL RATING: ambiguous junk

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=32766&forum=113>

HN Magic Review 16: How to Perform Impromptu Levitations video/DVD– Docc Hilford

AD:

Couldn't find it anymore (not even on the Floras website) – probably too embarrassing to sell!

REVIEW:

Extremely disappointing (and overpriced) video from Docc Hilford. It includes 7 different levitations (an “improved” Balducci levitation, a séance setting, a “complete darkness” method, a stage version, one using a chair, one using an assistant, and one also described in Mike Bent's [Zero Gravity](#)) that may even look impromptu to an audience but are simply garbage.

And not one subtlety, not one gag, not one line of patter to be used in other effects...

OVERALL RATING: Useless – maybe a video to lend to young beginners interested in magic?

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=30590&forum=111>

HN Magic Review 15: 0 Gravity – Mike Bent

AD:

Mike Bent's Zero Gravity is possibly one of the best self levitation besides the Balducci Levitation. EFFECT- You walk into a room with no covers no props or gimmicks. Then you levitate 4-5 inches off the ground. Both feet. This is a killer effect.

REVIEW:

Old unpractical method (see Soirees Fantastiques, Docc Hilford's [How to perform Impromptu Levitations](#) video etc). Mr. Bent has added a small metal twist to the concept, which only complicates the original concept.

I am not satisfied with any of the close-up levitation methods on the market – you should probably wait for the next one ...

OVERALL RATING: 0

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=18000&forum=5>

HN Magic Review 11: Excalibur gimmick – Daniel Miraskill

AD: This one was “accidentally” deleted. Can't seem to find the sales blurb in English anymore – here is the French version for what it's worth:

Excalibur : c'est un **gimmick prodigieux** qui vous permettra, à tout moment, d'avoir accès à n'importe quelle carte du jeu à l'insu du spectateur.

Par exemple, il permet d'effectuer la **fameuse routine *du jeu invisible*** avec un jeu normal examinable...

Ce **gimmick** nécessite une préparation et une habitude cartomagique minimum.

REVIEW:

A piece of metal coming in a black “Top Secret” plastic suitcase. Perhaps enjoyable after 10 or 20 years of practice. If you're looking for a functional, light and thin indexing system, go elsewhere (and please let me know). If you're looking to perform the effect described, go back to your invisible deck or – even better – read Kenton Knepper's

[Kolossal Killer](#) and its follow-up. If you really want to flush money down the toilet, contact me for my bank details.

OVERALL RATING: “a la poubelle » (I knew that those French lessons would serve me well!)

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=112722&forum=113&0>

HN Magic Review 4: Compact Key – Marvoyan

AD:

The performer claims to have a new security device, A Compact Key. He then removes the head of the key from its stem separating it into two pieces. The pieces are then instantly restored into the original key. The key can then be handed out for inspection.

The Compact Key is a twenty-second routine designed for any impromptu situation. The key can be examined before and after the routine. Comes complete with all necessary props and photo-illustrated instructions.

REVIEW:

Dear Magical Friends, this is THE WINNER!! I never counted the number of items/books/videos I own, but I spent over 20 years purchasing magical items and this broken key really stands out like a flash paper rose burning in the night. I now carefully avoid anything with the name of Meir Yedid written on it.

OVERALL RATING: buy it and keep it in full view all the time – and repeat to yourself “I am a sucker”

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=30488&forum=109>

HN Magic Review 3: The 8th Manoeuvre – Luke Jermy

AD:

A spectator somehow manages to correctly guess a selected card, three times in a row.

REVIEW:

Overpriced booklet, poorly produced and badly written. You get a patter blatantly copied from [Wonder Words](#) vol. 1, and a method already mentioned on dozens of manuscripts, such as Karrell Fox's [Another Book](#), Derren Brown's [Pure Effect](#) (Zamiel Card), Busch's [Peek Performances](#) etc.

I remember seeing an ad of a US dealer (A Squared Productions), where the booklet was discontinued due to customers' complaints...

OVERALL RATING: absolutely inappropriate

HN

Read/post comments:

<http://www.themagiccafe.com/forums/viewtopic.php?topic=30487&forum=110>

Thanks for following me down the spiral... You may flush now.