

Top Hat E-Zine presents...



# Chatter on Patter

Think before you open your mouth

ISSUE 5: BACKUP-ULATION BY CRAIG LEONARD

A Treatise on Presentation from a Practical Point of View

A Supplement Dedicated to the Advancement of Good Presentation

Brought to You By MagicBunny © 2006 All Rights Reserved

# Welcome

Welcome to the fifth issue of Chatter on Patter. After last month's issue and announcement I'm happy to say that some feedback has finally begun to filter back in. It looks like people are really enjoying the use of Craig Leonard's ideas on Equivoque and hopefully they've been finding practical uses for it in every day performances.

This month, we're treated again to Craig's writings. This time it is the application of another solid mentalism principle in the form of the Confabulation effect. Craig has slim lined it to achieve a seemingly very direct effect but at the same time does not require a huge amount of work on the part of the performer, leaving you to come up with a great presentation to use this in. Craig has, as usual, covered every angle and has even provided the performer with a very simple to use back up idea which brought a smile to my face, as I'm sure it will to you, as you read through the effect.

This month's routine is very workable and deserves to be used, simply as a tribute to Craig's hard work, if nothing else. However, I think you will fall in love with how direct this effect can play, and I'd be surprised if you weren't out using it very soon.

Until next month, I hope you enjoy this edition of Chatter on Patter and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on the content.

*Will Wood*

Chatter on Patter Editor  
*chatteronpatter@magicbunny.co.uk*  
*will@directmagic.co.uk*

# Backup-ulation

By Craig Leonard

## Basic Effect

The performer introduces a piece of newspaper, but does not let the audience see what is on it. The performer points to a spectator and requests to have a colour named. "Blue" is the response given. The performer jots down this selection in a notepad he is holding. He then asks another spectator to name a popular car. The spectator replies "Ford". This is also noted in the pad. Five spectators are then asked to give a three digit number each. A sixth spectator is handed a calculator and adds up the total – 2775. "Three random choices have been made. We have arrived, through those choices, to a blue Ford with a value of £2775." The newspaper advertisement is turned around by a spectator to show an advert for a blue Ford for the price of £2800. "Maybe I can barter..." says the Mentalist as he gets his applause.

Here's the good news. This can be almost as clean as it gets. And it's simple. The bad news – it is not *always* squeaky clean. It is however, always simple. Each of the elements involves a force. Let me explain...

## The Force of the Car

This is a psychological force. In the UK, when asked to name a make of a popular car, the most popular response is "Ford". Although it is the most popular choice it is by no way 100% reliable. That's where the back up comes into play...

## The Backup

If a manufacturer other than Ford is selected, don't panic. Just ask for another. And then another. It is explained that these selections are the first ones that came to the spectators, and therefore cannot be "random". To ensure that a random selection is made, you bring out your stack of index cards showing a model of car has been written on each one.

One is selected at random by a spectator and shown to be Ford. How?

It's a Svengali deck. *[This will require you to make your own Svengali Force Deck. For instructions on how to do this see "Appendix A". Another option would be to*

*use slight of hand to force a selection on a spectator. Bear in mind that because the overall effect of Backup-ulation is one of a mental miracle, sleight of hand should only be used if the spectators are not expecting it i.e. you have **not** performed slight of hand magic before this. – Editor]*

## The Force of the Colour

This is another psychological force. When asked to immediately name a colour, the most popular choice is Red. When given a few seconds to think about it, blue is more often chosen. (For more on this and other psychological forces refer to Banachek's excellent "Psychological Subtleties".)

### The Backup

If a colour other than blue is selected, apparently jot this down in your notepad, tear the sheet out and roll it into a ball. Ask for another four colours and repeat this. When you have five balls, ask a spectator to choose one at random. It will be blue. How? Instead of writing the spectators selections, you actually wrote "Blue" on each of the sheets.

## The Force of the Price

This utilises the popular "Add-A-No" principle. On one side of the pad, you have the numbers 753, 592, 326, 623 and 481 written. Try to disguise the handwriting as much as possible to give the appearance that they have been written by five different people. On the other side of the pad, have a spectator record their three digit figure themselves. Hand the pad to them and ask them to write it down with a pencil (do not be scared of handing the pad to a spectator – you have recorded your figures in light pencil and there's no way anyone can see it unless they turn the pad over. Which they won't.) In the action of reaching for the calculator with your right hand, the left hand drops to your side and flips the pad over – this is not a move and should appear perfectly natural. The sixth spectator calculates the sum of your prearranged figures. Of course, you could alter the figures to match the prediction exactly, but I like it to be slightly off.

## Appendix A – Constructing a Svengalli Force Deck

It may be necessary to use a Svengalli Force deck to force the appropriate make of the car on the spectator. To do this you will need a specifically made deck. If you are unfamiliar with a Svengalli (or Long and Short) deck, I suggest that you invest in one. However, the basic principle is that you can show the entire deck to contain different cards and yet freely force a single card on a spectator in seemingly fair conditions with no sleight of hand. A Svengalli Deck can be made relatively easily by taking a pack of blank cards and shortening half of them by

means of a guillotine. They only need to be shortened by a few millimeters to be effective. Once shortened the corners can then be rounded, although if using index cards, this is not necessary. In this specific instance, write the manufacturer to be forced (i.e. Ford) on all of the shortened cards and then any number of other manufacturers on the non-shortened cards.

I hasten to include a description of the necessary handling to force a card using the deck because the Svengalli deck is such a classic magical accessory that many magicians will already be familiar with its use. If you are unfamiliar with it, then I suggest you invest in one as they are relatively cheap and can be used in a large number of effects and principles.

- Editor