



**MagicBunny.co.uk**

## **TOP HAT**

### **August 2002 - Edition 5**

Welcome to edition 5 of the TOPHAT e-zine for members of MagicBunny.co.uk

As always, this edition contains a selection of articles and effects from the MagicBunny.co.uk Online Magic Discussion Forum.

If you have anything you'd like to submit, e-mail it to [TOPHAT@magicbunny.co.uk](mailto:TOPHAT@magicbunny.co.uk) and it'll be placed in the next issue.

Remember to keep on visiting MagicBunny.co.uk to see what's going on.

Yours magically,

~Jon Snoops~  
Editor of MagicBunny.co.uk's TOP HAT Monthly e-zine  
[jonsnoops@hotmail.com](mailto:jonsnoops@hotmail.com)

### **This Edition's Contents**

Every issue of the TOP HAT will contain original effects and articles written by readers and members of MagicBunny.co.uk. If you have a submission, please email [TOPHAT@magicbunny.co.uk](mailto:TOPHAT@magicbunny.co.uk)

This edition's highlights:

**MAGIC ARTICLE:** *"So, You want to be a Star, do you? Part 4"* by Nigel Shelton (UK)

**MAGIC EFFECT:** *"There's a Joker in the Palace"* by Daniel Price (UK)

**MAGIC ARTICLE:** *"The Thumb Tip and You"* by Michael Jay (USA)

**MAGIC REVIEW:** *"The Emperor Coin"* by Mister Toad (UK)

## NEWS BULLETINS

Each month, readers can send in news bulletins for users to be notified of. These can include details of a tour, lectures, advertisements and any other information. Please send in all submissions to [TOPHAT@magicbunny.co.uk](mailto:TOPHAT@magicbunny.co.uk)

### ***MagicBunny.co.uk***

It hardly seems a month since the last Top Hat Ezine - things have moved so far and so fast. The Challenge Link-Up Project has begun to amass some great ideas, with many new and exciting solutions. This project has just less than one month to run and then Drew will begin to close the thread and begin working on a booklet of ideas, so do post your ideas quickly.

The stock at the shop has grown tremendously over the past few weeks. There are Houdini stamps and an extensive range of American coinage (kindly donated from America by Michael Jay), small packet card tricks and an extensive range of magic books. You may have noticed that we have now opened an affiliate link with Amazon.co.uk to give you a superb range of books (all at amazingly low prices). For every purchase you make through the Magic Bunny store, the site will receive 15%, that can be used to further enhance the range of prizes that are used for competition and to include new additions for the Loans Library. What is more, items for the Loans Library will be purchased through this link in order to maximise the effectiveness of the money that is generated.

You may be interested to know that for the next few weeks, every purchaser at the Magic Bunny may nominate a free gift in addition. There can be no other place on the Internet where you can buy items at such excellent prices, pay no postage or packaging and still receive free Bicycle-gimmicked gifts too. Take a look at the following thread for details of this offer:

<http://magicbunny.co.uk/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?t=2002>

May I take this opportunity to welcome those of you have been on vacation a warm return to the Magic Boards and I shall look forward to reading more of your ideas over the forthcoming month.

Best wishes,

Admin.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### ***So, You want to be a Star, do you?***

By Nigel Shelton

This is a multiple-part essay that I wrote about becoming professional in the magic business. This is the fourth part and it's all about getting a manager to support you in your magic career

#### **Get yourself a manager**

I'm not suggesting that you should advertise or seek out a professional person to manage your affairs. Find yourself someone who will be willing to support you and offer you advice.

Have you got an older relative or friend that would be willing to accept this role. A mother or father would be idea but not every parent is able to take this responsibility. A close uncle or aunt, a trusted neighbour or elderly friend may be willing to help you achieve your goals. Speak with your parents first and gauge their support and consent. They may be able to assist or, if they are unable, they may be able to point you in the direction of a trusted adult.

The relationship between a manager and client is a close one. If ever you feel unhappy about any aspect of this relationship it is essential that you return to your parents regarding this. Some adults may seem trustworthy but may have sinister motives. Always return to your most trusted adult if ever you feel unhappy about any aspect of this relationship at the first sign of any worries.

A manager will be able to discuss your plans with you and help you to set yourself a realistic agenda. They will be able to lend a listening ear and act as a sounding board for your problems. They may be able to use their own knowledge or private contacts to arrange suitable breaks for your ambitions. A person who adopts this role will greatly assist you in your search for the right opportunities

Until next time, when I'll be talking to you about making a video that you can include in your portfolio.

## ***There's a Joker in the Palace***

By Daniel Price

### *Effect*

You take out 4 kings and 4 queens, show them and then mix them up. You ask the spectator to put 2 jokers on top of the mixed kings and queens. You deal 5 cards from the pile into another pile of 5 cards and put the remaining 5 cards next to it. You now have 2 stacks of cards next to each other made up of kings, queens and jokers. The magician and the spectator both pick a pile and mix the cards around. You then ask the spectator to select any card from his (facedown) pile. The magician does the same. Both the cards are flipped over and they are the jokers. The 2 remaining stacks are then turned over and they are the kings and queens.

For this trick you need to know how to palm a card and the top change. You need 4 kings, 4 queens and 2 jokers.

### *Method*

Put the 2 jokers down on the table and show the kings and queens. Start to mix up the cards and palm a card during the shuffle.

Hold the cards flat on your left hand with the card palmed in your right hand. Ask the spectator to pick up the jokers and put them face down on top of the pile.

Bring your right hand over to square the cards and drop the palmed card on top of the pile and DL to show a joker. Now, deal 4 cards off the bottom of the deck into a pile and 1 card off the top and put the remaining cards (with the jokers) next to it.

The spectator now thinks that each pile has a joker on top, when actually, 1 pile has 2 jokers on top and one has all court cards.

Ask the spectator to pick a pile. If they pick the pile with the jokers say, OK I will use that and you can use the other. If they pick the other pile then say, OK you can use that pile, I will use this.

Ask the spectator to mix his pile and say that you will do the same. All you do is reverse the cards so the jokers are at the bottom of the pile and do it again.

Ask the spectator to select any card from their pile and say you will do the same. Take off the top card (the 1st joker) and lay it on the table. Take the spectators card and do a top change with the top card of your pile. Take the card (the 2nd joker) and lay it on the table next to yours. Ask the spectator to flip over the 2 cards to reveal they are the jokers.

Casually turn over the remaining cards to show they are kings and queens to confirm you only used 2 jokers.

### *Comments*

I haven't included patter for this effect because it can be developed for your performance.

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## ***The Thumb Tip and You***

By Michael Jay

In the last few years, we've seen the rise of exposure of magic on television. Both good and bad remarks on this empty entertainment have surfaced in the magic community. One of the items that was exposed was the thumb tip (or, more specifically, the disappearing hank as done with a thumb tip). As a result, many of the magicians in our community have drifted away from using this small device and a large portion of those just beginning in magic are overlooking this terrific piece of paraphernalia. This is unfortunate since the proper use of a thumb tip can make for some very strong magic. Anyone interested in the beginning stages of thumb tip magic should review the following article. In it I hope to revive the thumb tip from it's grave. You will find tips for choosing, using and practicing with the thumb tip. Don't let the exposure programs fool you, if you can use a thumb tip properly, you'll never be caught or accused of using one.

### **Choosing a thumb tip**

Choosing a thumb tip is not only the first step in learning the proper use of the device, but the most important part of thumb tip work. The thumb tip should fit snugly to the first knuckle of the thumb. The thumb should retain it's entire normal movement, just as if the device were not on the thumb at all. When the tip fits snugly to the knuckle, there is no chance of it prematurely dropping off, even when the dirty hand (the hand wearing the tip) is dropped naturally to the side. This allows the performer to move and act naturally, something that is not possible if the tip is loose. A loose tip will cause the performer to constantly be conscious of the tip - it is this self consciousness that will cause the performer to inadvertently call attention to the tip. This is, of course, to be avoided.

Conversely, the tip should not be so tight to the knuckle that it seals to it. The tip should be snug, yes, but it should be easily removed. The performer must be able to remove the tip with just the hand that wears it. With the tip on, snug to the knuckle, allow the thumb to bend and drop down into the cupped fingers of the hand in such a way that the thumb is hidden from view. You should now be able to tighten the grip of the fingers around the tip and remove it by backing the thumb out of the tip. You should equally be able to do the opposite; when holding the tip by the grip of the fingers (finger palm position, as it were) you should be able to quickly and easily slip the thumb into the tip and snug it up. In this way, you can quickly steal the tip from finger palm position and onto the thumb.

### **Practicing with a Thumb Tip**

When you've found the thumb tip that is right for you, you should begin practicing with it. The best way to go about this is first to get comfortable with the thumb tip. Don't attempt to do any type of tricks just yet. You want to get the feel of the tip and this feel should be as if the thumb tip were your own. Wear it to the market. Pick up items while the tip is in place. Move the tip back and forth, from finger palm to snugged onto the thumb and back to finger palm. Get your other hand involved. Wear the tip both right and left handed. No sense in being prejudiced toward one hand or the other. Wear the tip while you watch television and while you are working on the computer. After a while it will feel very natural, which brings us to step 2.

Get yourself a second thumb tip. Pay as much attention to choosing this second tip as you did the first. Basically, it should be identical in fit and feel. Now, paint the new tip bright green. Yes, that's correct, you're going to destroy it by painting it bright, or neon, green. Now, you are ready to begin practicing a magic trick with the thumb tip, only you will be using the neon green tip instead of your normal tip.

### **The Basic Trick**

There are many different effects that can be done with a thumb tip. The following is the basic use and probably the best to begin with. You need the thumb tip (we'll be using the green one) and a small silk. The silk must fit into the tip and still have the space to allow the tip to be snugged to the thumb, as per the rules above. May I suggest that you get yourself a thumb tip streamer - available in many magic shops and also in many shops on cyberspace. The streamer is a highly effective piece when combined with the tip because it is long and thin. Using the streamer gives the illusion of making a whole lot more disappear or reappear.

The silk should be already loaded into the tip. Have the tip on the left thumb to begin with. Stand in front of a mirror, of course, and watch closely for any flash of green. Now, turn slightly to your right (which is to say that the right shoulder should be pushed rear-ward) and bring the left hand up, the thumb tip hidden behind the back of the hand. Make a fist with the left hand, pulling the tip into finger palm position. Pull out the silk with the right hand fingertips, then put it back in (yes, of course, you are not showing your hands empty here - this is practice and not for the audience to see, I just want you getting comfortable with the tip before we work on specifics). Tucking the silk into the left fist (which is into the tip, of course) use the index finger, then the middle finger, then the ring finger, then the thumb. When the silk is fully into the tip, you'll tuck with the thumb and snug the tip onto the thumb simultaneously and here is where you make the steal. Pulling the tip out of the left fist (secured on the right thumb), make sure to keep the left fist in it's same position. The fingers and back of the right hand will be used to cloak the tip as it comes out of the left fist. Now, tuck with the first finger again and maybe the middle finger for good measure and continue to conceal the tip. This final tucking is done for psychological purposes and you will note that the right thumb with the tip can be concealed behind the left fist while you do this final tucking. Watch the mirror closely here and keep an eye out for green flash. In fact, watch for green flash at all points, beginning to end.

### **Thumb Tip Techniques**

We start this from the exact position of above. The green tip is on the right thumb kept concealed behind the right hand and fingers, the left hand still in a fist. Now, take the left fist and slowly kneed the fingers, as if to crush the silk into nothingness, slowly showing the left hand as empty. The right hand should be naturally to you side, but with the back of the hand facing toward where the audience would be, or toward the mirror.

Bring the right hand up and into pointing position with the first finger, this will naturally hide the thumb behind the right hand with the other fingers slightly curled. Run the right pointing finger across the open left palm then turn the entire left hand over showing the back of the left hand and run the pointing finger across the back of the left hand (as if to say, "Nothing here, and nothing here"). Okay, try to follow this. It would probably be best if you did this while you read it, thumb tip on the right thumb and left hand in the described position.

You are presently pointing at the back of the left hand. You will now flip the left hand back over and simultaneously swing your body to the right. As the left hand flips and the body swings, the left hand will naturally come into contact with the thumb of the right hand. The left hand removes the tip and secures it in finger palm while, as you complete the body swing to the right, the right hand comes up palm forward (toward the audience, toward the mirror). The left hand can now naturally go into a point with the index finger, the other fingers naturally slightly curled (tip in finger palm position) and you now do exactly the same thing that you did showing the left hand empty, only showing the right hand empty. Do the front and back of the right hand, just as you did with the left and swing your body forward, making a fist with the left hand. You are now back to the beginning where you can pull the silk out of the left fist, then tuck it back in - repeat the whole thing.

Do this many, many times. Do it slowly and watch continually for green flash. One other point to remember while you do this exercise. You should always have the hands in a natural position or positions. That's correct, while you are working on preventing any sign of a green flash you must also be working on maintaining a natural positioning of both hands and all of this simultaneously. When you can keep your hands looking natural and avoid any green flashes, you are now prepared to get very technical with the tip and do some very powerful magic. And, no one will ever see the tip or believe that you are doing anything wrongful with your hands at any time.

With just the work above, you are prepared to use a thumb tip to not only vanish items, but to show both hands completely and fairly empty, then reproduce that which you just made vanish. There is a great deal more to be learned about the proper use of a thumb tip and other ways to steal the tip, but this is enough for now. Did you want more? Well, feel free to let me know and I'll get on it.

Until next time, happy thumb tipping!

## ***The Emperor Coin***

By Mister Toad

**Name:** The Emperor Coin

**Available from:** The Magic Bunny Shop

**Price:** £18.50 (Postage and packaging free.)

**Maker:** Eddie Gibson © 1992

**Examinable:** The coin is fully examinable at the end of the trick.

### **Difficulty**

This is an extremely simple routine to perform. There are no sleights of hand - the trick is virtually self-working.

### **Marks out of 10**

This is one of my favourite coin routines. It has a great story line and is so simple to perform. For this reason, I'd give it a nine out of ten.

### **Effect**

An oriental coin is shown in a slim plastic wallet, together with a single playing card. The magician brings attention to the hole in the oriental coin and talks about the story of why ancient Chinese coins were minted with a hole.

The card and the coin are removed from the wallet and the coin is rubbed between the finger and thumb. As this happens, the hole disappears.

The coin is balanced upon the tip of a finger and is tapped with a card. This causes the hole to reappear within the coin.

The coin may then be examined by the audience.

### **Comments**

This trick comes with a page of notes that contain a very effective patter line regarding the minting of ancient coins.

The set-up time is relatively quick. It can be achieved in a matter of two or three seconds.



Thank you to all the articles submitted to this month's TOPHAT

If you have anything to submit, do remember to email [TOPHAT@magicbunny.co.uk](mailto:TOPHAT@magicbunny.co.uk)

Best Wishes,

Jon Snoops

*Editor of MagicBunny.co.uk Online Discussion Forum's E-zine—TOP HAT*

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