

In this Issue

- (01) Really Cold Readings
- (02) Derren Brown Cold Reading - video
- (03) My Card to Pocket - original magic
- (04) Plaincards - Custom playing cards
- (05) Card Box Template
- (06) B.D. Erland Blog
- (07) Card Magic - video
- (08) Rising Match Box - video
- (09) Houdini Color Change - Video
- (10) Think and Grow Rich - Download
- (11) Cyril and a Cigarette
- (12) Denny Lee
- (13) Bobo's "Modern Coin Magic" - Download
- (14) Coin Magic - video
- (15) Amazing Guitarist - video
- (16) Erdnase' "Expert at the Card Table" - Download



Really Cold Readings

From the Skeptic's Dictionary web site:

"Cold reading refers to a set of techniques used by professional manipulators to get a subject to behave in a certain way or to think that the cold reader has some sort of special ability that allows him to "mysteriously" know things about the subject."

One of the primary 'tools' of a good mentalist is the ability to conduct 'cold readings'. Cold readings are nothing more than a series of statements that, statistically, apply to most people. And as soon as an incorrect statement is made, the mentalist hustles off in another direction like a metal ball in a pinball machine..

This is the same technique used by many TV psychics, although I'm not going to get into a discussion of real vs. fake psychics. All we're interested in is how this technique is used by mentalists as part of their stage show.

"People close to you have been taking advantage of you. Your basic honesty has been getting in your way. Many opportunities that you have had offered to you in the past have had to be surrendered because you refuse to take advantage of others. You like to read books and articles to improve your mind. In fact, if you're not already in some sort of personal service business, you should be. You have an infinite capacity for understanding people's problems and you can sympathize with them. But you are firm when confronted with obstinacy or outright stupidity. Law enforcement would be another field you understand. Your sense of justice is quite strong."

This reading was from astrologer Sidney Omarr... (Flim-Flam!, pg.61). Although you've probably never met Mr. Omarr, isn't it amazing how much he knows about you.

Here are links to three great sites that go in-depth to discuss the details of cold readings, and how they're performed..

Cold Reading - The Skeptic's Dictionary - Robert Todd Carroll
<http://www.skeptdic.com/coldread.html>

Guide to Cold Reading - Ray Hyman
<http://www.skeptics.com.au/articles/coldread.htm>

How come TV psychics seem so convincing? - The Straight Dope
<http://www.straightdope.com/mailbag/mcoldreading.html>

Derren Brown Cold Reading

And if you would like to watch a little video of a professional at work, performing a cold reading on an audience member, watch Derren Brown...

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G18NfN76bAs>

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Card to Pocket

Effect:

The magician has a card freely selected (no force), and the spectator is given a Sharpie and asked to sign the face of the card. The card is returned to the top of the deck and the deck is cut several times by either the magican or the spectator, or both.

The magician now tells the spectator that he intends to do two things: make the signed card disappear from the deck and then reappear in another location.

The magician turns the deck face up and begins to thumb through the deck, asking the spectator to look for his signed card. After thumbing completely through the deck, the spectator admits that his card is no longer in the deck.

Reaching into his coat pocket, the magician slowly pulls a card from his pocket, showing it's back, and drops it onto the top of the deck. The magician comments that finding the spectators card in the deck would probably be easier if , unlike the magician, you're working with a full deck.

After a few awkward moments, the magician asks the spectator if they would like to see the face of the

top card, and after a 'yes', the magician flips the top card over to reveal the spectators signature on the face.

Solution:

Two things are needed to make this effect a cinch.. a small piece of double-stick tape (tape sticky on both sides) and a double backed gaffed card matching your decks back. Double stick tape can be bought at most craft stores, like Michaels and Hobby Lobby. A double backed gaff card can be bought at most magic shops, or you can make your own by glueing two cards face to face. The two jokers are ideal for this purpose. Use rubber cement as your first choice of adhesive, preferred over white glues and super glue. You can also use two pieces of double-sided tape to hold the jokers together as well..

Begin with a small piece of tape on the back of the top card of the deck. Hold the deck to prevent the tape from being seen. The piece of tape should be no larger than the ball of your thumb, so you can conceal the tape with your thumb if you want..

Also, have the double-sided card comfortably in your shirt or jacket pocket.

Spread the cards between your hands and ask the spectator to select any card. It's not important that you know what card is selected. After they look at it and show it to others, reach for the card and casually place it on top of the deck. Lay it on top gently, make sure it's squared properly, and put a little pressure with your thumb to the middle of the card to make sure it sticks securely to the card underneath.

Cut the deck. Cut it a second and third time and ask the spectator if they want to cut it a couple of times as well. Once everyone is convinced the card is lost in the deck, flip the deck over, face side up, and ask the spectator to look for their signed card as you slowly thumb the cards from your left hand into your right, with each card going UNDER the previously thumbed card.

Stop briefly a time or two to casually square the cards held in your right hand. When you 'feel' the double card pass through your fingers to the right hand, stop again and square the portion of the deck in your right hand. You can simplify this by knowing the identity of the card you stuck the double-stick tape to the back of, and simply look for that card. From this point on, thumb cards onto the TOP of the right hand packet to preserve the double cards position on the bottom.

When you've reached the last card, comment that you didn't see a card with a signature, as you square the deck and flip it back over to the face down position. The double card will now be on top of the deck.

Now you're set to tell the spectator of the card in your shirt pocket, remove it, and place it on top of the deck. The 'awkward' moment I mentioned is just a moment for you to get your finger tip or thumb tip under both the double backed card and the selected card. You're going to pull the selected card loose from the card underneath, and turn the selected card and the double backed card over as one.

Personally, I separate the cards at the upper left hand corner with my forefinger, and slowly flip the cards over, sort of like opening a book by it's BACK cover. I use my LEFT thumb to hold down the edge of the card that the selected card is stuck to, making it easier to un-stick the two. Then I let the cards slide right back onto the top of the deck in one fluid motion. Now, the signed card is laying on top of the deck, face up.

To the spectator.. it looks as if I simply flipped the top card over...

Now I can immediately take this card off the top of the deck and hand it to the spectator for inspection. The card underneath will appear face down, just as I have come to expect from a double-sided card!

But.. one more little subtlety.. Pressing on the center of the deck again will stick the double-sided card to the back of the card that the selected card WAS stuck to.. Now, you can quickly take the top card and show it as being an indifferent card, show the next couple of cards as well, sort of saying.. "look at all these cards, everythings normal..."

The magic is complete.

Note: Double faced tape works best when it's not TOO sticky. You will want to place the tape onto the back of a card beforehand and then repeatedly stick your finger to it to make it less sticky. Practice the separation several times to make sure the card doesn't pull loose with a 'snap' sound. You want the separation to be totally quiet.

You can stick a couple of pieces of double-sided tape to the underside of the flip top of a pack of cards. One can be easily removed when needed, then peeled from the back of the card and put back into the card case when finished..

The ideal of using a double-backed card to facilitate a 'card to pocket' effect is based partly on an effect Doug Dougherty presented in The Linking Ring, June 1981. Double-sided tape was not used, and the signed card could not be shown to have 'vanished' from the deck. I feel my additions have made a good effect stronger... JMHO

R.Carruth

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Plaincards - Custom playing cards

Ever wanted to create your own playing cards? The key word here is 'create'. Unlike other companies that will create cards for you, Plaincards has a downloadable creator that allows you to design your own cards, both front and back, to your specifications..

The 'creator' can be downloaded and sampled free for 30 days, and then purchased for less than fifteen dollars.

When I ran across this site the other day, I thought of dozens of possibilities...

Put your promo picture on the front or back of your cards. Create cards with unique pips or designs. One of the biggest complaints I hear from fellow magicians is the inability to find ESP cards that fit their needs. Now, you can create your own cards with your own symbols.

You can also create gaff cards.. double sided cards.. and any other specialty card you need for your performances.

Card stock can be purchased thru Plaincards.

<http://www.plaincards.com>

Card Box Template

While researching the subject.. I also discovered another site that features a template for creating your own card box. It's free.

<http://www.ee0r.com/boxes/>

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B.D. Erland Blog

B.D. Erland's blog is one of my favorites. You cannot find a more in-depth review of magic books and/or DVD's than B.D.'s "mere magical mentalistic miscellaneous musings". It's obvious that he has taken the time to study the subject and offer a thorough review that goes way beyond the norm..

B.D. has also posted various video's on his site of performances by some of magic's premier performers. Watch Tommy Wonder, Juan Tamariz, Lennart Green's FISM performance, Whit Haydn, Dai Vernon, and Guy Hollingsworth.. among others.

Heck.. the video's alone are worth a few visits to B.D.'s blog..

On Michael Ammar's 'Easy to Master Card Miracles' DVD, B.D. wrote:

"Michael Ammar's not one for understatement. If something he's describing is even moderately impressive, he'll break out the superlatives -- "amazing", "astonishing", "unbelievable" etc. -- and drop them all over his videos with reckless abandon. He does it with such sincerity that you want to give him the benefit of the doubt, but when he displays that same sincerity in the adequate but underwhelming "Complete Introduction to Coin Magic" or the downright awful "Icebreakers", it makes a skeptic trepidatious when approaching a series whose title promises "Miracles".

But this is also the same Michael Ammar who's won all those awards, was Dai Vernon's star pupil, and has those soft, nasty hands. This is a man who really knows how to please his audience, and probably your audience as well...."

Some of the reviews include:

John Lovnick's Switch
Magic of John Ramsay
Easy to Master Card Miracles (1-3)
3 Introductory Coin Magic DVDs
Encyclopedia of Card Sleights
Secrets of Finger Ring Magic
SH4DE
Bob Sheets's It's The Rules
Daryl's Ambitious Card Video

I highly recommend you visit B.D.'s blog and bookmark his site...

<http://www.erlandish.blogspot.com/2006/12/review-switch-unfolding-100-bill-change.html>

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Card Magic - Video

Here's a good card trick with a twist.. and you don't need to know any sleights except a double lift..

(One thing you will notice, probably from this point on, is the recent trend in online video's - advertisements. Major corporations can't stand the thought of certain online video's getting as much as seven to eight million hits each. They see the dollar signs, and in an attempt to really monetize sites like YouTube, you will now see ads for the first few seconds of many video's.)

http://www.jokeroo.com/extremevideos/awesome_card_trick.html

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Rising Match Box - Video

Although this video uses a pack of gum, the trick is actually designed to use a matchbox. Lay a match box in your hand and magically wave your other hand over the match box. Slowly, the match box flips over in your hand. Now, with a little more coaxing, the drawer of the matchbox opens and the magician hands the matchbox to his audience for inspection.

This easy to perform effect is simple to set up and the 4+ minute video does a good job of explaining the moves..

http://www.thewebdump.com/item/59762/MetaCafe/revealed_magic_trick_box_opens_by_itself

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Houdini Color Change - Video

Here's one of many different ways to perform a color change. If you want to learn a simple method, try this one..

http://www.thewebdump.com/item/64664/MetaCafe/houdini_color_change_2

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Think and Grow Rich Napoleon Hill

"Life is a checkerboard, and the player opposite you is TIME. If you hesitate before moving, or neglect to move promptly, your men will be wiped off the board by TIME. You are playing against a partner who will not tolerate INDECISION.."

Yes.. this has little to do with magic. But it depends on what type of magic you're talking about.. Napoleon Hill's classic is as read today as it was years ago when first published. Something about it struck a chord with it's readers, and they kept going back to it's pages, year after year, as if magically drawn to it's wisdom.

I bought my first copy probably 20 some odd years ago. Through the years I've been forced to clean off my book shelves to make room for even more books, and I've picked up my little paperback copy a dozen times and started to pack it away with the other outgoing books.

Each time though, as I looked at it front and back, I would set it on my desk, determined to flip through it one more time before passing it along to someone else. And each time, I've picked up an idea or thought that stayed with me for days.

Now, I no longer consider putting my copy on the curb. It's one of those dozen or so books that has found it's own personal spot in my mind and my heart.. And although I'm not willing to let you have my little dogeared copy, I willing to let you have THIS electronic copy.

I can assure you, if this book changes your attitude, like it has for many, it WILL change your magic as well ...

<http://www.streetmagicsecrets.info/1think.pdf>

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Cyril and a Cigarette

Oh, so politically incorrect. Oh, so graceful and entertaining. Cyril performs a routine with a cigarette you would have expected to see Slydini perform fifty years ago. This is classic sleight of hand, and shows the depth of talent and appreciation of the art that Cyril presents to the public..

Cyril lived in California for many years, and speaks perfect english, although many of the video's you see of Cyril online are in Japanese, as this is where his TV show originates.

If you saw the US special 'Totally Hidden Extreme Magic', commonly called 'T.H.E.M.', then you saw Cyril perform a couple of effects, including the popular 'head dropping from the shoulders' effect..

Check it out..

http://www.dailyhaha.com/_vids/cigarette_magic_tricks.htm

Denny Lee

OK.. while we're showing video's of cigarettes disappearing, here's another one.. featuring a classic impromptu performance by Denny Lee of Denny & Lee Magic of Las Vegas and Baltimore.

I've watched this one several times, and I still don't have a clue...

This video is over six minutes long, and Denny first discusses some of his thoughts on magic before getting into the performance portion of the video..

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-768092372233857075&q=denny+magic&hl=en>

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(Your Second Gift from the Magic Roadshow)

Modern Coin Magic - J.B. Bobo

I don't know if I can think of another book that has had MORE influence on a particular form of magic than J.B. Bobo's "Modern Coin Magic". This work has become the ultimate guide to coin magic, and that's not my opinion, that's the opinion of virtually every coin worker in the world.

Covering everything from coin concealments, like palms, holds, and clips.. through basic techniques like switches, flips, and change-over's... and finally classic vanishes, cuffing, sleeving, coins across, shells, and folding halves.. 'Modern Coin Magic' is the first place to look to learn every aspect of performing with coins..

To quote John Braun:

"This book is the result of Bobo's fascination with the magic of coins. The tricks have been gathered,

mastered, tested, catalogued, and filed away like a collection of precious stones, and it has taken many years to get this collection together."

"Here are superb examples of the art of pure sleight of hand - magic with coins - and magicians the world over will be grateful to Bobo for presenting to the fraternity his splendid collection of coin tricks."

This is a big ebook - 282 pages if memory serves correct. It may take a few minutes to download, but it's darn well worth every moment.

Enjoy..

<http://www.streetmagicsecrets.info/bobo.htm>

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Coin Magic - Video

In honor of Mr. Bobo and his masterwork of coin magic.. here's a nice, straight-forward effect that you can learn in twenty minutes or less with a little practice.

Magician takes a coin in one hand and freely shows the other hand empty. The empty hand forms a fist and the magician pushes the coin into the top of the fist, then shows the hand that previously held the coin to be empty. The magician then slowly opens his fist and shows that hand to be empty as well..

Now, the fist is re-formed and the magician pulls the coin out the top of the fist...

Watch the video and learn the method..

http://www.metacafe.com/watch/291799/learn_magic_coin_trick/

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Amazing Guitarist - Video

Again, nothing to do with traditional magic. Just a great little video I ran across while perusing the web for magic 'stuff'..

I hope you guys don't mind when I throw a curve ball every now and again. I'm a lover of great performances, and the hard work and dedication that goes into bringing something to life.. regardless of whether the instrument is a Les Paul, a canvas, a coin, a Stradivarius, or a deck of cards...

Andy Mckee should have been a magician...

http://www.thewebdump.com/item/64909/MetaCafe/amazing_guitarist

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Erdnases' Expert at the Card Table - Download

If you're a new subscriber, you can download your free version of Erdnases' classic ebook at this link..

<http://www.301url.com/erdnase>

If you have a problem, let me know and I will send you the ebook as an attachment..

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Well, I hope you enjoyed your 'second' Christmas issue, and I hope you'll enjoy your copy of Bobo's classic of coin magic. If you are into close-up and restaurant type magic, coin magic is a must for your repertoire. It's so easy to set up and repeat, and so visual, that it's the perfect compliment to your card effects..

Questions? Rants? Raves? Comments?

[Email Me](#)

To position yourself on the 'Roadshow's Frappr World Map' with other readers from, literally, around the world....

<http://www.frappr.com/magicroadshow>

To view a sample chapter of our best selling magic-related ebook 'Astounding Magic'..

<http://www.StreetMagic.info/astounding.html>

To watch high quality sample video's from our favorite teaching web site CardTricks1..

<http://www.301url.com/cardsleights>

Remember to visit some of my other sites at:

<http://www.StreetMagic.info>

<http://www.MagicRoadshow.com>

<http://www.Mentalists.info>

<http://www.StreetMagicSecrets.info>

<http://www.BellaOnline.com/site/shareware>

<http://www.StreetMagic.info/blogger.html>

<http://www.MadMarketing101.com>

Happy New Years !!

Rick Carruth / editor

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