



Highlights

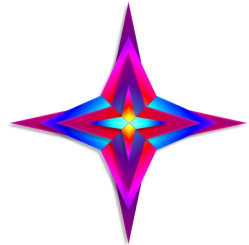


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Coin Magic Blitz

November's LIVE EVENT at the MLM Academy

If you are into coin magic, then the November session at the MLM Academy in Exeter is designed just for you! We will be going into the details of four feature coin routines and will provide instruction on all the moves plus guided practice time to ensure that everyone who comes will leave with a good understanding of how to perform each effect.

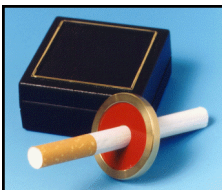


The four routines are: **The Homing Coin** - this is a splendid single coin and handkerchief routine which comes directly from my own working repertoire. **The Money Jacks** - produce four coins from between two cards. This provides an ideal intro to the third routine which is **Magnetic Attraction** - a coin matrix with no sleights! And finally, **Broke** - an amazing looking vanish of three coins one at a time which includes two compete coin vanishes where you are not left palming anything.

The very small group tuition conditions make this the ideal way to learn this type of coin magic, so get your registration in now. Tickets are **£49.00** for a standard ticket (with printed instructions of everything you learn on the day) or **£65.00** for the enhanced ticket (with a DVD of all four routines as part of the price). Go to www.markleveridge.co.uk/mlmacademy.php for more info and to book.

November's Product Of The Month

Cigarette Through Chip



At first glance you may wonder whether this effect is relevant any more - after all, with smoking being banned from all inside venues there are fewer opportunities to perform this trick. However, you don't have to perform this with a cigarette, and in fact I normally borrow a bank note and roll that up and use it instead.

This trick uses a solid brass poker chip with a bright red inlaid centre instead of a borrowed coin, and the method is completely different to that used with the classic coin version.

This produces a number of advantages for the chip version. For instance there is no switch in required at the beginning, the chip can be shown completely freely on both sides during the penetration, and the moment the cigarette or note has been pushed out, the very same chip can be handed out for examination. Good stuff, and only a very small re-set. **Price: £25.00**

E-Club Pro - your monthly magical fix!

The Caught Card - £7.00



Done well, this is a really convincing penetration of a card with a hole punched through it from a ribbon. Three cards, a court card and two matching indifferent cards, each with a hole in one end, are handed out for examination along with a length of ribbon. The court card is trapped between the other two cards and all three are genuinely threaded onto the ribbon. In fact the cards can even be spread to show that all three cards are properly linked on. Squaring the cards, with one pull the court card is suddenly seen to have broken free. Immediately all three cards and the ribbon can be examined again. Only three cards are used, no gimmicks, this relies on the clever use of a ring and string move to affect the card's release. Some practice required.

The Magic Party Giant Farm Animals - £40.00

Limited supplies are left of this fabulous set of five giant farm animal shapes which are produced on durable soft plastic and in bright colours. The animals are a pig, a horse, a cow, a sheep and a chicken, and they come with instructions for a number of different ways to use them. I include these in my pre-school shows and normally I use them to illustrate a funny story, complete with sounds, in which children get to come up and hold the large animal banners as the story progresses. But you can also use them to illustrate songs or even in magic tricks. The animal cut out shapes look great when the kids are up holding them, so however you use them you will make a great spectacle. There are just a few sets left and then there will be no more, so get yours soon if you want them.



Perfect Intuition - £15.00



This is a real reputation maker of a trick which is ideal for a close up or parlour show, or at larger tables where you are not in too much of a rush.

All it uses is a pile of envelopes inside each of which is a double blank card. A spectator selects any envelope, removes the blank card and openly writes on it the name of any other spectator who is present. The spectator slips this card back into the envelope and then mixes it with five other envelopes from the pile.

The performer now hands envelopes one at a time to spectators around the table, the order being entirely at the assisting spectator's discretion. Despite the randomness of all this, the spectator whose name was written on the card discovers they are holding the correct envelope containing the card with their name on.

Table Hopper's Coin Into Bottle - £25.00

The Coin Into Bottle is a classic of close up magic, but I suspect that few people really get to perform the effect in its normal format in most commercial situations. The reason is that it simply isn't practical to carry a large bottle around with you, and also there is always the fear that the bands on the necessary folding coin may break leaving you stranded half way through the trick!



I have got round both these issues with this practical variation in which instead of a bottle I use an examinable glass jar which is small enough to be carried around in a pocket, and by devising a method which does not involve a folding coin. The result of all this is that you get the impact of the effect, which can be performed at tables, but without the normal handicaps, and as such it is to be recommended for anyone who performs commercially.

Top Sellers

A selection of products from last month's Top 20 Sellers List

No. 4 - The Collected Card Magic Of Mark Leveridge - Vol. 2

Price: £15.00

I don't really do complex card tricks as I like my card magic to be uncluttered and relatively sleight free, and as a result my card ideas are hugely popular. This book is a collection of 10 of my varied card routines. Included in this book are full details of [The Free Selection Collectors](#), which is an amazing looking four stage effect that is actually straightforward to do, [1-2-3 Jumbo Cards Across](#), which is ideal for stand up or children's shows, and [Diary Of A Nobody](#), a clever version of the diary trick.



No. 14 - Heart On Your Sleeve

Price: £10.00

Sometimes if you put a little thought into it, you can devise a presentation for an effect that makes the impact of the trick so much better and more engaging than would otherwise be the case, and this idea is a perfect example of this. In essence, this is simply the revelation of a freely selected card, but the presentation and patter ensure that the audience feel far more entertained than you would expect.



No. 19 - The Professional Magician's Signed Card To Wallet

Price: £45.00

Most wallets which are designed for magicians unfortunately do not look much like a regular wallet. Which is a pity. Also, most methods either require stressy palming or are in some other way rather convoluted and suspicious. This version, however, which uses a regular looking wallet, is easy to use, does not require any palming, and is perfect for walkabout work as there is no re-set. If you are a commercial performer, this is one card to wallet that you will actually do, rather than simply admire and then consign to your cupboard!



Chatter

The Mark Leveridge Blog

As a general rule commercial magicians get the best but also the worst of all things magical when they perform. Let me explain what I mean by that.

If you are working magic at tables during a meal you will usually only be present with each of your audience groups for a very few minutes. In one way this is good, in that you only have to get and hold their attention for a short period of time and you will be able to hit them with a small selection of your very best magic before moving to the next group.

But on the downside, you have little or no opportunity to develop a meaningful rapport with your audience and for them you may well just be one of a number of side show style distractions during their meal.

Compare this to the cabaret performer or even the children's entertainer. They both will perform for a much longer period of time with the same set of spectators, and so can gradually warm up their audiences and get them into the best and most receptive mood for them to enjoy the show. These performers will take centre stage and are seen as an important part of proceedings, not just a quick distraction from other more important things such as eating!

For me, performing at reception events or dinners, while satisfying in some ways, can be very frustrating in others. When I think of all the great magic I have at my disposal and normally how very little of my overall repertoire I have the time or conditions to use, it can leave me feeling frustrated. I feel I have so much more to offer, yet I am not being given the chance to really make the

most of what I can do.

It's for these reasons that I really love it when I get a booking to entertain at a small dinner party or private family event. The audience size is usually around a dozen or so people and they will either be all sat round one large table or possibly they will be arranged casually in easy chairs in a lounge area. I will normally be presenting a set of close up magic lasting 45 minutes, and it really gives me the best opportunity to make a great impression.

When I use this type of show at a dinner party I usually either perform in between the main course and the dessert, or immediately after the dessert and while the guests are still at the table and are perhaps having a coffee to finish their meal.

Under these conditions everyone will be relaxed and very happy to watch your show with undivided attention. There are no distractions, no interruptions, and you are the centre of attention in a way that you rarely get at dinner function tables.

There is now the maximum opportunity to create fun with the group of spectators, there's the time to involve literally every person watching personally in the show in some way, and the breadth of magic you get the chance to show is wide - some of the tricks you will never have been able to show under any other performing circumstances before.

So artistically it is fabulous for the close up magician to get this type of show opportunity, and the impact that it has on the select audience who get to see it, is profound. It's the best use of close up.