

BRAIN-----BUSTERS  
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By U.F. Grant

Trick No. 1

Watch Reading Test

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Any three people take ordinary watches to a far corner and set them at any hour, minute and second desired, then seal them in small boxes. These are hung or placed anyplace and you can tell the exact hour, minute and second on each one.

Like all good tricks the method is simple and depends on a clever dodge and the one ahead principle. When you introduce the trick you have any three step forward. You require four watches, all alike, the cheap toy type with moving hands are O.K. One of these watches is already set we will say at "3:22½" and sealed in one of the boxes. This should have some secret mark on it so you can distinguish it from the other three boxes. In this prepared box have a slip with the name "George Brusso" on it. Now you have the other three boxes and a slip for each one handy. Have three step forward and give each one a box, slip and watch. They go to a far corner or in another room, set their watch and sign their name to their slip and place or seal their watch and slip with name on in their box. While they are doing this you patter along to the effect that you gave a test performance this afternoon before a private gathering, and one of the men, a "Mr. Brusso", set a watch and sealed it in advance and sent it over here this evening along with a sealed letter giving the hour he set the watch at, and you will endeavor to read that along with the other three now being set.

Now the other three come back with their sealed boxes and these are placed in a large bowl or hat along with the planted one and mixed up a bit, saying the reason for this is to show that you do not have to read any special one first, or know in advance which persons watch is in which box. For a more spectacular performance I suggest you have a large cardboard clock with movable hands. If not, use a large slate with a dial drawn on and with your prediction each time, draw in the hands to show correct time etc. We will say you have a large clock face.

Walk over and pick up tray or item watches are in, pick one of the boxes, being sure not to take the faked one. Hold the box above your head and pretend to concentrate, then walk over to clock and set the hands at "3:22½". Deliberately open the box to apparently see who set their watch at this time, and regardless of who's it is, you mis-read and read off "George Brusso", at the same time make a mental note of name on slip and time watch is set at. Now have the man holding the sealed envelope tear open same and see if your prediction is correct, which he verifies.

Now, unknown to the audience you are one ahead of them. The watch and name just opened is placed in a hat or bowl. Pick up another box being sure it is not the planted one and hold above the head and pretend to discern its contents and set clock as before only set it at the time indicated by the one just opened, supposedly the Mr. Brusso one. Then open this package and the committeeman verifies his name and that you have correctly set the large clock to correspond with his setting. This is repeated with the remaining two and each time as each watch and slip is removed it is placed in the large bowl or hat, thus at the finish anyone may check the clocks and slips.

You will find with proper showmanship and handling this is one of the strongest tests ever presented and most convincing and fool-proof, as everything is unprepared.

If...You are working where you are not offering a reward to the effect you use no confederates, you may have a plant in the audience to step up with any two and he sets his watch to the time you have already arranged with him. This way you get to use the one ahead without a fourth person and watch set by the apparent Mr. Brusso.

For boxes to seal watches in, I suggest you buy 4 nice velvet covered watch boxes from a jeweler.

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Trick No. 2

Cards & Boards Test

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Any number of sealed decks that have never been opened are given to committee, they select any deck, break seals and shuffle same and remove any ten cards and seal them between two boards and you are able to name the ten cards.

This is a banner effect in card magic and one they will remember. The manner of finding out the cards is very natural and never noticed, and a method not used in general card magic.

In your lower right vest pocket you have a deck of cards which is short any ten cards and is not in the case. On the table you have ten complete decks that have never been opened and with the same back design as the deck in your pocket. Have the committee step forward and go into a corner or any near by anti room. They pick any deck and shuffle it as much as they like and hand deck to you behind your back. You stand with your back towards them. They pick any ten cards out of the deck and as soon as they do you bring the deck to your front while they take paper and pencil and write down the names of the ten cards. While they do this and with your back still turned, you have ample time to slip the deck in an empty vest pocket and pull out the duplicate deck. Then caution them to hide their cards. You turn and hand them the deck and tell them to stick the ten cards in anyplace and place the deck in case and anyone places this in their pocket. You leave the room while they nail the ten cards between the boards. I was wrong above, they do NOT put the ten cards back in the deck, they keep them out. While out of the room you run through the deck and deal it into four piles, one pile for each suit, and when you are finished you can easily see which ten cards are missing and write them down on a pad.

Now you walk back to their room and gaze at the board and pretend to concentrate, take out the pad and pretend to write down the ten cards that are already written down, unknown to them. When they check your list, they find that you are correct. Anyone else opens boards and verifys the cards against both slips.

And there you have a wonderful effect, one they will remember and talk about and all without practice or sleights and much greater than the usual run of the mill card tricks.

Now for a variation I will give you another method: In this method you have to open decks in advance and stack them, then reseal them. Have half of the decks red backs and the other half blue backs. You know the top ten cards of each deck, as top ten cards of every deck are the same, you stack them that way. The beauty of this method is

that you never touch the decks or go anywhere near them.

The committee goes to the room and takes two decks, one red and one blue, their own selection. Now any one of them that is used to handling cards opens the two decks and riffle shuffles the two decks together. Now they decide on either color. You never know which color they decide on. They take the top ten cards they come to of that color and these are the cards they note and seal, etc., and you are later able to name the cards. Unknown to them, the mere action of shuffling ( riffle shuffling ) the two decks together does not disarrange the order of each deck by itself. On top of that, they are of the opinion that the decks have never been opened.

Here is another method, using just one deck and the riffle shuffle principle. Have the middle 20 cards of the deck stacked so that you know what they are. Then have person take and break the seal on the deck and open it, then deal the top 26 cards onto the table, face down, one at a time. Then turn this stack face up and shuffle it into the remaining face down stack. In other words the two halves are riffle shuffled face to face, so half are one way and half the other way. Now, they hold the deck either way and run through it and remove the first ten face down cards they come to. You will merely have to know which section they want and you will know the ten cards.

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Trick No. 3

Bill & Glass Water

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Several drinking glasses, unprepared...They select any one and pour water in same and taste it. They select anyone to take out a bill and seal it in a heavy brown manila envelope, such as a pay envelope. Now anyone gazes in the glass of water and is able to give the serial numbers on the bill. The glass is again examined.

First of all, envelope bill is sealed in is faked. This is prepared as follows. Take one and cut off the back of same, so just the front part with flap on is left. Now slide this down inside an unprepared one, so the two flaps are such that one is behind the other. Now, between the walls of this envelope, or in other words between the sections that flaps are on, place a bill that you know the serial number of. Then moisten the flap of the rear one and stick it to front flap. You now have an envelope with bill in that appears empty and unprepared. Also required is a celluloid disc that is same size as bottom of a glass of water. Now with black india ink letter on this celluloid near one edge the serial numbers that are on the bill inside the double envelope.

Now you will discover that if this disc is placed on bottom of a glass and glass is about half full of water ( use about an 8 ounce shell glass ) Have glass sitting on disc so that the numbers are at the outer edge, if person stands to rear of glass and gazes thru the side of the glass ( not down in top ) down into water, they will see just the numbers, apparently mid way in the water, making a most ghostly effect. Have disc in pocket, handy for you to steal at the proper time.

Have committee step forward and have them pick a man from the audience. You step down to him and hand him a pay envelope and tell him to take out a dollar bill, not too old, not too new. This is so it will match your planted one. Have him seal it in the envelope and step up on stage and hold it high in the air. Stress the point that he does all, you never touch it. Now have committee select glass, pour water in and taste it etc. Then secretly get disc in hand and place glass of water on palm of hand so it covers the disc. Now anyone steps over and gazes in glass and calls out numbers, as he does another one writes them down on a large blackboard, so all can see and verify them.

Now replace glass on table, keeping the disc in the hand. Then anyone picks up glass and drinks the water to prove no chemicals were used. Deliberately walk over and take envelope and with sharp pointed

knife, rip small section of the front of envelope, so bill shows a bit, hand envelope back to the man, mentioning that you do not want to handle the bill, so no trickery can be worked, have him rip the started tear, and remove the bill and to read off the numbers on HIS bill and they correspond with the ones the man saw in the glass of water.

That, my friends, from the audience point of view is MAGIC. You will discover that you can let them seal bill in envelope and tear it after you start the tear and do so safely, this is the strong point of the trick.

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Trick No. 4

\$500 Letter Reading Test

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This I can truly say is the best mental test idea I have ever developed. The last word in Mystery and test has proven it so.

First you require a large glass fish bowl and prepare this by cutting out a piece of clear celluloid ( or glass if preferred ) so it fits across the center of bowl and divides it in two sections, as per sketch on next page. Also have some plain envelopes, plain white cards that fit envelopes, pencils and you are all set, for that part. We will say you are going to pass out 20 cards, before the show write on 20 cards a message, for example "I bet you do not get this one" and seal these in envelopes, same message in each envelope. Have these 20 letters in lower left vest pocket. You are now all set.

Pass out the others and tell them to write any message they desire and seal in envelope. Not to sign their name, as most people in an audience do not like to have their names called out. You step into audience and collect them, in a neat stack in the right hand, hold right hand high above the head, as you back up to the left side of the stage. Just as you get to the top step to walk over across stage, the two hands come together to hold envelopes. Previous to that your left hand stole the 20 dummies out of the vest pocket. The two stacks are held together as one, with little finger of left hand holding a break between them. Now as you drop them in the bowl, the originals go to the front partition and fakes to back partition. All are in full view and shaken up.

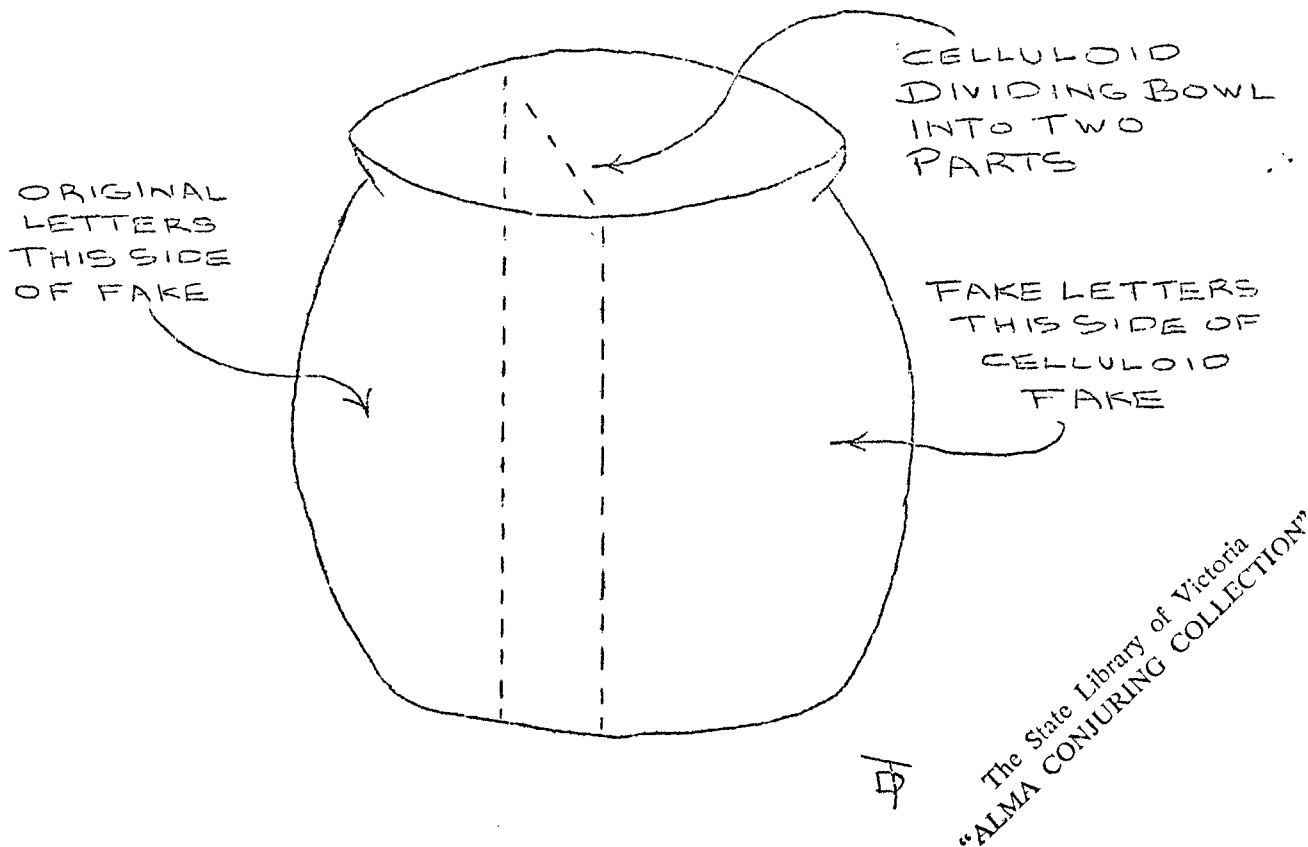
Now pick up bowl and hold it high and have three step forward. Each one reaches in the bowl and takes out an envelope. But hold the bowl so that they have to take from the side your letters are in. This is very simple, by holding bowl high, so apparently they cant see what they are taking, keeps their hand from getting to center of bowl to touch the partition. Audience decides which letter is to be used, other two are tossed back in bowl. Person with selected one goes to far end of stage and you tell what is in same. "I bet you do not get this one." He tears it open and verifys you are correct.

Still another variation of the final effect is to have two men and a girl step forward. Have men get their slips from unprepared section of bowl with genuine letters in and girl gets forced one, this you do easily, as you pick bowl up to carry over to her etc. Now the three letters have been drawn. Then have a fourth person step forward. The girl you have picked to take out the faked letter should be a pretty one. This fourth man you have step forward should be young and the type that usually goes for girls, flashy dresses etc. Now you say

to him, "We have two men and a girl, which do you want?" He will pick the girl. So you have the two men open their letters and read them out and have them verified by the writers. Then you read the girls, before it is opened.

If the young man does not select the girl, you fall back on the Magicians choice. If he picks one of the men, you have that man step aside. Then he takes either the remaining man or the girl. If he selects other man, have him step aside and that leaves the girl. Or if the girl, say, alright, we will use the girl.

And thus you have a letter reading test that is second to none, if presented in a half way decent manner.



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