



## SPONGE MAGIC

The following pages contain Idea Sheets about Sponge Magic. Use the space below to write down your ideas and resources for accomplishing these miracles with your students.

### **Ideas for teaching Sponge Magic:**

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### **Locally available Books, Videos, DVD's, about Sponge Magic:**

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### **Local Magicians and Other Experts to help in teaching Sponge Magic:**

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### **Resources:**

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## SPONGE

List the magic effects of the "Sponge" kind that will fit best into each of these venues:

**Close-Up:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Family Table Magic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Visitors to the House:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Classroom Magic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Summer Camp:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Talent Show:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SAM Public Show:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Picnics:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Civic Clubs:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Birthday Parties:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Day Care:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Adult Banquets:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senior Citizen Events:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Television:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Where Else:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Notations:** Regarding Audiences, Angles and specific awareness that will help you choose Effects.

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## SPONGE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

### Finger Palm

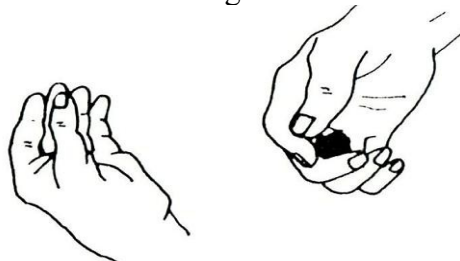
Quite often, during a routine, you need to secretly hold a ball hidden in your hand. The best way to do this is with a Finger Palm. Hold your right hand outstretched, palm up, fingers not quite flat, and put a ball between your second and third fingers. Now slowly turn your hand over as you curl the fingers in toward the palm of your hand. When the back of your hand is uppermost, you'll find that the ball is resting quite easily inside your fist on the middle two fingers. If the ball tends to roll, all you have to do is close you fist a little bit more. Even though you have a ball hidden in your hand, you can still pick up another ball, point to the other hand or something on the table, and mov objects around. Just relax, keep your hand relaxed, and no one will notice.



### Vanish

We all learn a number of ways to make a ball vanish, and then usually find ourselves using the same one or two vanishes for all routines. The following move is the best simple vanish, not only because it is so natural, but it can be used for vanishing three or four times during one routine.

Hold your left hand palm up in a natural position, which means that the palm and fingers are slightly curved in a dished shape. Pick up a ball with the tips of the right thumb, first, and second fingers, and then turn that hand palm up to show the ball to your audience. Turn the hand back down again, and do the next sequence of moves in a 1-2 cadence which will bring your right hand right back to where it is now. Bring the ball to the left across the right edge of the left hand and touch it to the base of the middle two fingers of the left hand (1), then start closing the left fingers up around the right fingers and at the same time roll the ball up to the second phalanx of the right fingers; when the left fingers have touched the backs of the right fingers, move your right hand straight out the right side of the left hand and back to where the right hand started its move (2).



When you've finished those moves (all in two motions) you'll wind up with your left hand closed, as if holding the ball, and with the right hand back where it started but concealing



a ball inside its fingers. It will take hours of patient practice in order to get this vanishing move down so it looks like you've really left the ball in the left hand. Things that will help support the deception are especially the following tips.

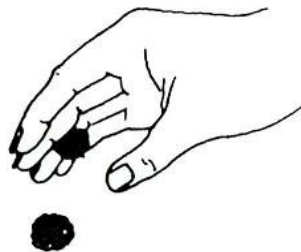
Curve the fingers of your left hand so it looks as though you really have something inside; don't make a tight fist. This means that instead of having the tips of the fingers down in the palm, they should be in a straight line across the base muscle of the thumb. There are no gaps between the fingers, and the thumb covers the opening at the left side of the fist.

As you move the right hand from the right to the left and back again, watch the ball as long as its in the right hand, and then transfer your gaze to the left hand when the ball touches the left palm and those fingers begin to close. Keep your eye on the left hand until you vanish the ball. As long as you believe the ball is inside the left hand, your audience will believe it.

Just because you have a ball hidden in the right hand, DON'T try to hide the hand. Any object that moves attracts the attention of the eye and the logic of the mind! People will wonder why you suddenly put that hand out of sight...are you hiding something? Don't move the hand any farther than where it was when you started the move. Don't even think about the ball being in that hand. Don't give them a chance to suspect it, and then your pacing of the routine keeps their mind busy so they don't concentrate on two trains of thought at the same time. Don't worry!

### **The Pinch**

There are a number of times when you're hiding a ball in your hand and you want to pick up another ball. The natural way is to extend your hand, palm down, with the fingers extended. The only way to do this, naturally, is to pinch the hidden ball between the tips of the middle two fingers. This is easily done, while your hand is still in a closed position, by moving the ball with your thumb until the ball is in the right spot, separate your fingers just a hair, and then squeeze them shut on a portion of the ball. To pick up the other ball, keep your hand closed as you move it toward the ball on the table, opening it just before your hand descends onto the tabled ball. Push the pinched ball right down on top of the other one, and then pick them both up between the tip of your thumb and the tips of the middle two fingers.



### **Two-Handed Production**

This is an interesting move that can be used once in certain routines, and was developed from a coin production.



You have a ball pinched in the crotch of the right thumb, with the fingers extended in a natural position. Open your left hand flat, with the palm up, so your audience can see that it's empty, and then briefly touch the tip of your right middle finger to the center of the left palm. When the right hand has pulled back out of the way, close your left hand and turn it over. Again, extend your right hand and touch the left hand halfway between the knuckles and the wrist, but this time keep your middle finger on the back of your left hand. You now start to turn the left fist in toward you as you turn your right hand away from you, **KEEPING THE MIDDLE FINGER ON THE BACK OF THE LEFT HAND**. As the opening of your left fist passes under the ball in your right hand (just after you start moving the two hands), you drop the ball into the left fist. Continue moving your two hands so you finish with them both palm up. Still keeping your right middle finger on the back of the left hand, open your left hand to show a ball inside.





## THE FRENCH DROP WITH A BALL

from the files of George Schindler

The "move" you are about to learn uses sleight of hand. This means that you are going to use your skill rather than a prepared prop or a gimmick. The name of this "sleight" is the "French Drop" and it is also known as the "tourniquet." This is a simple method of causing small objects to vanish. Here is how it works. We will use a small ball.

1. Hold the ball in your left hand between your thumb and middle finger tips. The palm of your hand is cupped facing up toward you.
2. Bring your right hand over to cover the ball in the left hand. Your right hand should be held with the back of the hand up. The right thumb goes under the ball. The right four fingers cover the top of the ball momentarily.
3. As soon as the ball is out of sight, relax the pressure of your left thumb and the ball will drop into the cupped left palm. The right hand, in the meantime, pretends to take the ball as it closes.
4. Move the right hand away from the body toward the spectator.
5. Your left hand slowly goes into your left pocket leaving the ball there. Pretend to get some invisible dust from your pocket. "I'll sprinkle a bit of invisible dust on the ball." As you sprinkle the imaginary dust, slowly open the right hand one finger at a time. The ball is gone!

Practice this "Sleight" many times using a ball or any small object such as a pebble, a coin, a marble, or a cork.

If you practice this in front of a mirror you can see if you are doing it correctly. Here are a few things to remember when doing the "French Drop." When you close your right hand into a fist, move it away toward the spectator but watch it with your own eyes. Do not look at the left hand. The hand that holds the ball should not move until the other hand is well away from it. Gently relax the left hand as you go into your pocket. Do not make a quick movement or you will call attention to the wrong place.



## **MULTIPLYING SPONGE BALL**

from the files of Jack Weigle

### **EFFECT:**

The magician displays a sponge ball. With a gentle movement, he divides it into two whole sponges!

### **SECRET:**

Display the sponge on the open left palm. Another sponge is held secretly in the curled right fingers. The right index finger points to the displayed sponge. With a word about either pulling it apart or making it divide, bring the right hand over to the displayed sponge. Quickly press the secret sponge onto the displayed one. Now either hold the sponges together and pretend to pull them apart or begin to roll the two under the right index finger until they slowly separate. This is a powerful move that will take your audience by surprise.

Practice the moves until everything seems natural and no attention is called to the secret sponge. Practice in front of a mirror so you can see what the audience sees.



## **ONE IN MY HAND, TWO IN MY HAND, THREE IN MY POCKET**

### **EFFECT:**

You put two small balls into your hand and a third ball into your pocket. The ball in your pocket keeps jumping back into your hand. Then, all the balls vanish.

### **WHAT YOU NEED:**

Four sponge balls. (To do this effect impromptu, you can tear a paper napkin into four pieces. Each piece may be rolled into a satisfactory ball.)

### **PERFORMANCE:**

Palm one of the balls in you right hand. This isn't hard if you curl your third finger a little, it will hold the ball so that it won't drop out. If you look in a mirror you will see that your hand looks natural and empty even when it contains the ball.

While secretly hiding a ball in your right hand, place three of the balls on the table. Pick up one of the balls and put it into your open left hand as you say, "One in my hand." Put the second ball, **ALONG WITH THE EXTRA BALL FROM YOU RIGHT HAND**, into your left hand as you say, "Two in by hand" and close your left hand. Pick up the third ball and put it into your pocket as you say, "Three in my pocket." Ask, "how many balls are in my hand?" The answer will be "Two." Open your hand and show three balls. **THAT'S MAGIC.**

### **ALTERNATIVE ENDING 1:**

Pretend to put the ball into your pocket only you really palm it into your right hand, you can perform the effect again.

### **ALTERNATIVE ENDING 2:**

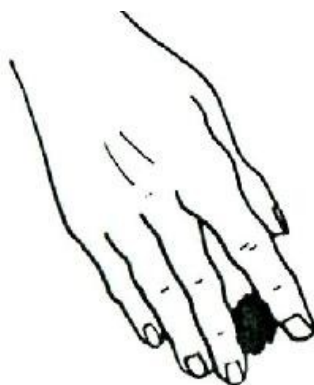
Leave the ball in your pocket and do "One in my hand, Two in my hand". **EXCEPT**, when you put ball two into your left hand, put it on top of ball one and **PICK THEM BOTH UP AS ONE**, palming them in your right hand as you did earlier. Put them both on top of ball three. Pick up ball three with your right hand and put all three balls into you pocket as you say, "Three in my pocket." Ask, "how many balls are in my hand?" No matter what is answered, move your hand toward a member of your audience and ask, "Will you hold them?" Open your empty hand as you say, "Don't tell anyone how it works." Now just give your nicest smile.



## BALL THROUGH POCKET

This is a good trick when done in a routine or by itself. As you practice it, try to work out ways that make it look as natural as possible.

Showing a ball in your right hand, you put it in your left hand, which takes the ball to the left trouser pocket. You push the ball against the inside of the pocket so it can be seen, and then put your right hand over it. You rub a little, and the ball comes right through the cloth.



When you put the ball into your left hand you keep it in your right hand. Put your left hand in your pants pocket, and then push the knuckle of your first finger against the inside of the pocket to create the impression of the ball being there. As this is being done, your right fingers get the ball into a Pinch position. Open your right hand out flat and put the ball right against the knuckle inside your pocket. Rub your hand in a circular pattern and then let the ball roll out between two of your fingers to show itself to your audience.