

sides with an opening at the top. He twists this into a small cone, and in forming the cone the opening is to be on top so that when he drops the handkerchief into the cone it falls between the folds of the paper that form the bag. When the cone is opened and the paper held out to the audience the handkerchief is gone. The plate is lifted up and the handkerchief appears under the same.

HANDKERCHIEF TRICKS YOU CAN MAKE YOURSELF

The following tricks are carefully selected from the best mechanical handkerchief tricks that have ever been performed on the stage. These are illustrated in such a way that it will enable you to make up the mechanical tricks yourself and perform them. Most of the following experiments are tricks of comparatively late invention; that is, within the last few years. The majority of them have been performed at one time or another by the leading professional conjurers; some of them have never been described in book form and, to my knowledge, this is the first time that an explanation for manufacturing them has ever been given. If you were to purchase these tricks separately you would find that it would run into a good sum of money, but by purchasing the silks and getting them made up in your own home you will have in your possession some of the best handkerchief tricks ever invented at a comparatively small cost. In all the tricks bright colored Japanese silks from which to manufacture them are as suitable as anything. The first trick is the

GOLDEN COLOR CHANGE

Explanation for Making. A red and a blue handkerchief are placed together (see Figure 41, No. 1), after which they are sewed together to form a bag. A harness ring of metal being

sewed in at the opening A. The red handkerchief being now on the outside, tie or sew a single red handkerchief at B, after which turn the bag inside out at A through the ring. The blue handkerchief is now on the outside. Tie or sew a single blue

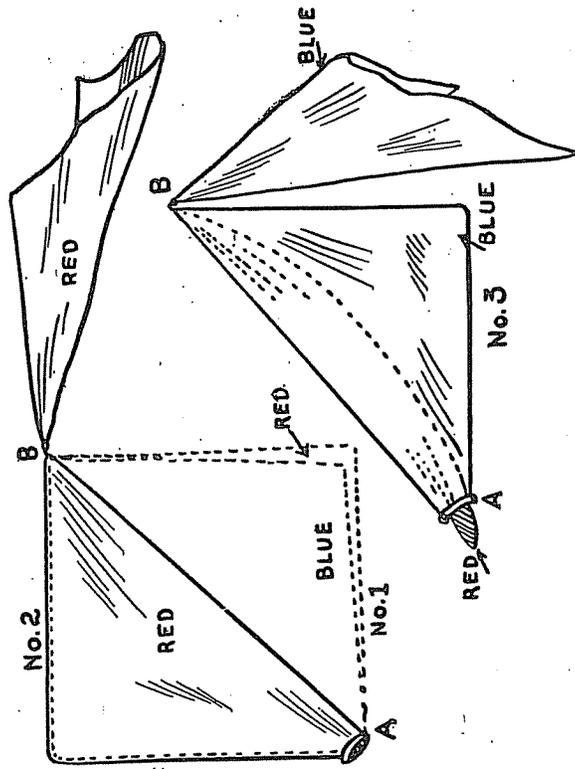


FIG. 41

handkerchief at the same point B on the blue bag. You are now ready to perform the trick. In performing handkerchief tricks I have always used the Golden Color Change, named after the famous Horace Golden, and performed by him. I generally had the Golden Color Change handkerchief lying across the handkerchief stand before the entertainment started so that I could reach it at any time it was convenient or when it would fit into my performance best. Some performers concealed the

Golden Color Change back of the mirror glass and exhibited it as a conclusion to this trick. At any rate, after having exhibited the two handkerchiefs (what appears to be two handkerchiefs tied together) I remarked about my magic power to change the color of the handkerchiefs by simply rubbing my hands over them. The ring of the bag is held in the right hand between the thumb and the first finger. Then taking hold of the tip of the red handkerchief which protrudes through the ring, as in Figure 41, No. 3, draw the ring down and the handkerchief bag is turned inside out. A beautiful and instantaneous color changing effect is produced. The handkerchiefs are then thrown back over the stand and you are ready to proceed with another trick. The effect of the trick is very rapid and does not last long, but it is extremely startling and effective.

FLAG BETWEEN HANDKERCHIEFS

Explanation for Making. To make this trick a red, a blue handkerchief and a small flag are necessary. Take the blue handkerchief and fold it into a triangle, stitching two sides to form a bag. A small space is left unsewed, making a pocket A. (See Figure 42, No. 1.) A flag is now tied or sewed at B, after which the red handkerchief is tied or sewed at C. No. 2 shows the effect obtained after the flag is placed in the pocket, giving the audience the impression that the two handkerchiefs are tied together.

The Effect. You require for this trick the apparatus described above, one extra silk flag, the duplicate of the one sewed and inserted inside the bag, and a "Pull" for disappearing one of the flags. To commence the trick exhibit the two blue handkerchiefs in a perfectly natural way. Tie one of the handkerchiefs to the corner of the other (bag) before the eyes of the spectators and then roll the handkerchiefs up into a ball, either placing them in a glass tumbler or have someone hold them. Now

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you take from your table the duplicate American flag and vanish it according to directions given in "The Handkerchief Vanisher." Now command the flag which has just vanished to appear between the other two handkerchiefs and immediately take hold of one corner of the blue handkerchief and one corner of the red.

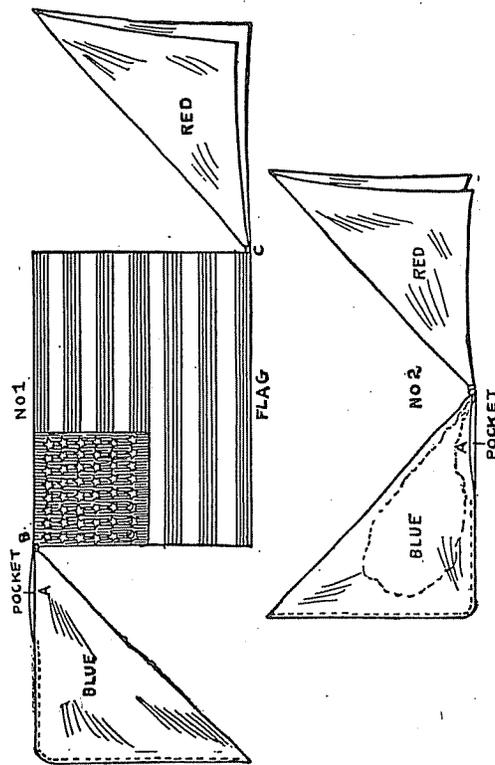


FIG. 42

Give them a quick jerk, not only unrolling them but drawing the American flag out of the pocket of the blue handkerchief bag, making the handkerchiefs appear, as in Figure 42. This is one of the most effective handkerchief tricks ever performed and with comparatively little practice you will be pleased with the results.

Special Notice. In wrapping the two handkerchiefs up be sure and leave the two corners where they are easy to get at, so that when you pull them apart the flag will appear between them in one move.

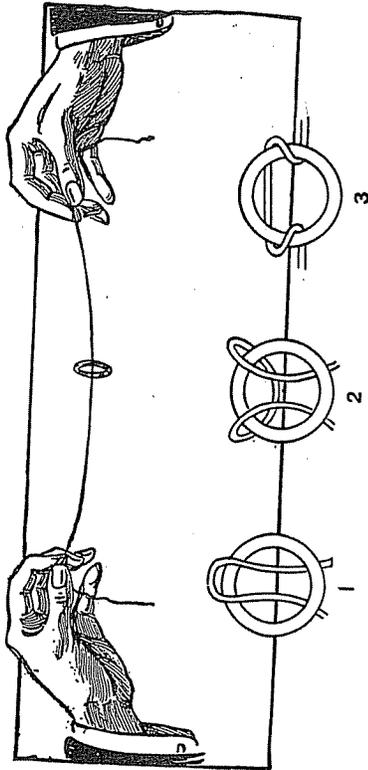


FIG. 52

REMOVING RING FROM STRING UNDER HANDKERCHIEF

Effect. A small ring is passed for examination, after which it is threaded on a string, the ends of which are held by a spectator. While the ends are being firmly held the ring is covered with a borrowed handkerchief, under cover of which the conjurer makes it possible to remove the ring entirely. The ring can be thoroughly examined and is found to be without preparation.

Secret. Two rings, exactly alike, are required to perform the trick. The string should be about two feet long. Have the duplicate ring concealed in your right hand before the trick begins. Now, have one of the audience thread the ring onto the string and have him hold the ends. Throw the handkerchief over the ring and under cover of the handkerchief you grasp the ring that is actually on the string in the left hand, covering it. Now take the duplicate ring, which has been concealed in the right hand, and place it on the string as follows: Tell the spectator to give you plenty of slack. Pull the string through the duplicate ring. (See Figure 52, No. 1.) The string being pulled through

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the ring as in No. 1, pass it over the ring (No. 2) until it eventually assumes the appearance shown in No. 3. The performer now requests some one to remove the handkerchief and, just as it is being done, the left hand (in which, it will be remembered, the original ring is) is slid along the string toward the spectator's right hand and the performer indicating as well as inviting the spectator to free his hands, so that the performer is now holding the string. The spectator is now requested to remove the ring himself, which of course he can easily do.

The success of the trick depends upon this move, which is a perfectly natural one.

PASSING A RING THROUGH A HANDKERCHIEF

This is a very effective parlor or pocket trick and can be worked nicely on a small stage.

Effect. You borrow a ring, place it under a handkerchief, and have a member of the audience tie a string around it. You throw another handkerchief over it, allowing them to remove the handkerchief. They will find, later, that the cord is still tied tightly, but the ring has disappeared. It will be found in some other place, as desired.

How the Trick Is Done. A substitute ring is required, or a round piece of wire the same size as the ring. This is cut, the points sharpened and put into the shape of a brad. You have this substitute ring concealed in your right hand. You now borrow a ring which you appear to place in the handkerchief, but you really put in it the substitute ring. This substitution is very simple. You lay the ring in the palm of the hand with which you palmed the fake ring and, taking the latter, you place it in the handkerchief. It now appears that you are holding in the handkerchief the ring you just borrowed. Remove your hand, taking away with it the borrowed ring which you can drop into your pocket for later use. You then ask someone to

come up and tie with a cord a tight knot around the handkerchief so that the ring cannot be gotten out. You now throw another handkerchief over the ring and handkerchief; and, bending one of the ends of the wire ring through the knotted

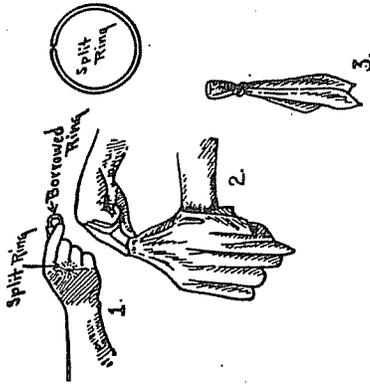


FIG. 53

handkerchief, work it out and palm it under cover of the other handkerchief. It is then well to rub the spot from which you removed the wire ring so that the little hole will not be noticed. You can now make the other ring appear from someone's pocket or clothing by carrying it in the palm

BLENDO

Explanation for Making. Two American flags 12x18 inches are used to make this trick. One being cut so that half the field and stripes opposite are used. This is stitched to the whole flag to form a pocket. (See Figure 46, No. 1.) A harness ring is stitched at the opening A and a short piece of stiff cat-gut sewed on at B. The pocket thus made is turned inside out through the ring at A (see No. 2), and three handkerchiefs, a red, a white

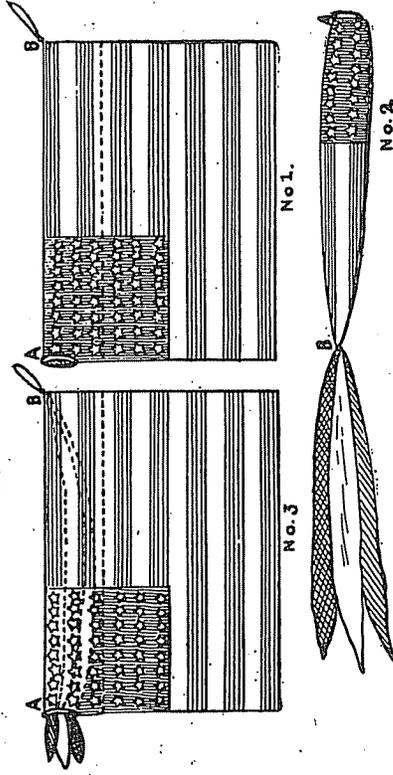


FIG. 46

and a blue, are now tied or sewed at B. Now by sliding the ring back, holding onto the cat-gut, you have No. 3, with handkerchiefs concealed in flag.

How to Perform the Trick. Put your second finger through the loop in cat-gut. Pull the ring back, holding on to the three handkerchiefs, the red, the white and the blue, turning the flag inside out. Now take the flag and roll it up into a ball, where it can be held in the palm of the hand. The corners of the red, the white and the blue handkerchiefs are held between the thumb

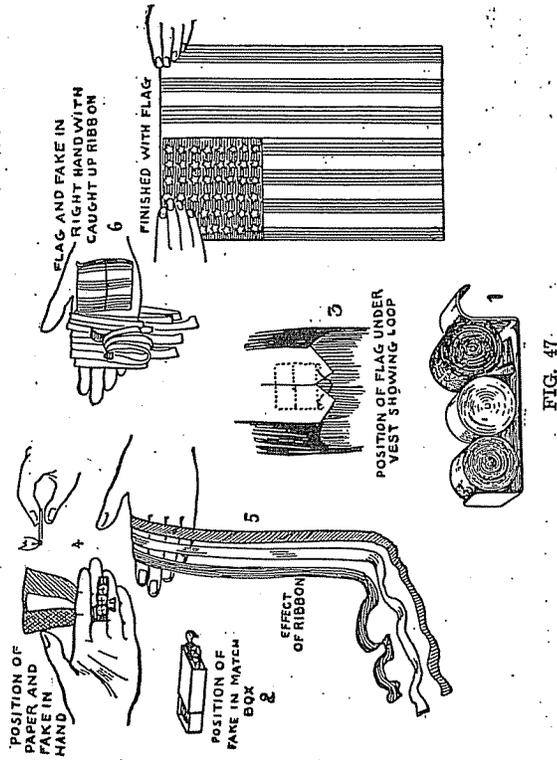
and first finger; the flag itself concealed inside the palm. The ring in the flag should be held in a position where it will drop down over the handkerchiefs when the flag is released from the palm of the hand by giving the hand a shake; the weight of the ring will carry the flag down over the three handkerchiefs, changing them into an American flag.

VALADON FLAG TRICK

The Effect. Three pieces of tissue paper, one red, one white and one blue, should be secured and these are held in the right hand. Twist them into a knot. These are lighted with a match. The light is then extinguished with the left hand and three beautiful ribbons, a red, a white and a blue, apparently burst forth from the ashes. The performer then gathers the ribbons up in his hands and, as a climax, transforms them into a large and beautiful American flag.

Explanation for Making. The following material is necessary and prepared as follows: Get some red, some white and some blue tissue paper cut into three pieces, 7x4 inches; three strips of ribbon, 3/4 inches wide, 2 1/2 yards long, one red, one white and one blue. At the end of each ribbon sew on a piece of wire the same width as the ribbon. Make a metal holder shaped as in Figure 47, No. 1, about 3 inches long bent up to shape. Fasten the ends of each one of the ribbons to the holder as illustrated and roll the ribbons up so that they are held in position. Lastly, an American flag 24x36 inches, with a curtain ring attached to two of the corners and two weights sewed to the opposite corners. The holder, with the ribbons held in position, is placed into a match box half open (see No. 2) and laid upon the table so that the open end of the match box holding the fake is not visible to the spectators. This is laid next to the squares of tissue paper. Next the flag is folded as follows, after having

been prepared as already described. Spread it upon the table and pleat it in four-inch folds, first the long way, as an accordion is pleated. Then fold it up from the bottom in four-inch folds. This gives you a four-inch package which should be perfectly flat, with the two curtain rings on one side and the weights



on the opposite. With the parcel prepared in this way, attach to the black thread which secures it a fine black wire, 2 1/2 to 4 inches in diameter and as near the color of the clothing as possible. Such a piece of wire can be purchased from any hardware store for 5 or 10 cents a spool. The parcel is now concealed under the vest as in No. 3, with wire loop protruding just where the vest is buttoned, and bent outward so that it is easy to grasp when required in performing the trick. You are now ready to perform the illusion.

First you exhibit the three squares of tissue paper, calling attention to the fact that your hands are empty with the exception of the tissue paper. After having done this, you twist the bottom edges of the paper up. This twist is held between the second and third fingers (of course the back of the hand is toward the audience). The rest of the paper is thrown across the back of the hand. Now you proceed to the table, keeping the paper in full view of the audience, and, picking up the match box which we have described as lying on the table partly opened with the fake concealed therein, you pick up a match and at the same time the fake, which you hold between the first and second fingers.

Note. Be sure and bend the fake so it fits your fingers neatly. You light the match on the side of the box, which gives you an excuse for having the box there, and with it the edges of the paper hanging over the hand are lighted. The box is then closed and thrown to one side. The tissue paper is now burning slowly (see No. 4). Allow it to burn down to the fingers, when it is then smothered out by the left hand. Giving the right hand a sharp quick half turn, the ribbons will be released and thrown out over the back of the hand (see No. 5), giving the appearance that they have been magically created from the ashes of the paper. Now the remains of the tissue paper can be dropped to the floor unobserved. With the left hand you now proceed to gather up the ribbons into the right hand, just as you would pull in a rope, say 8 or 10-inch lengths, the left hand grasping the vest at about the waist line in this move. While you gather up the ribbons in this way, it gives you an excellent opportunity to allow the thumb of the right hand to enter the loop in the flag under the thumb in a perfectly natural movement. The flag can thus be withdrawn unobserved from under the vest. It is hardly necessary to say here again that it is important not to allow your eyes to look at the vest to see how the

work is progressing, because if you look down at the vest the audience will naturally do the same and the trick will be exposed. Make the moves slowly and accurately, never quickly; because under cover of drawing the ribbon in you have plenty of time to withdraw the flag from the vest. After all the ribbons have been gathered up into as small a parcel as possible, so that you are sure of being able to conceal them in the hand, the next move is to break the thread securing the flag, slipping each one of the curtain rings over the thumb of each hand. Now all you have to do is to spread the arms apart, and the weights that have been sewed in the flag will immediately drop down, and with the ribbons concealed in the palm of the right hand they can be easily dropped out of sight in the back of the flag, or rolled up in the flag itself after displaying it.

Careful practice is necessary before performing this trick so as to know just how to go about it. The trick was performed with immense success night after night by the famous Valadon, the English magician, who traveled with Kellar throughout the United States. It is considered by many magicians as the greatest flag trick ever presented.

CHANGING THREE SILK HANDKERCHIEFS INTO DIFFERENT COLORS

Explanation for Making. After you have reviewed the method of manufacturing "Blendo" it will facilitate your understanding the preparation and manufacture of this trick which is almost identical.

You prepare the handkerchiefs as follows:

A handkerchief is folded and stitched to form a bag (see Figure 48, No. 1) and a harness ring is sewed at A, which is a slit in the bag. A red and a green handkerchief are now sewed or tied at B, after which the bag is turned inside out through the

ring and three white handkerchiefs are tied at the point marked B. Reverse the back, pulling it over the white handkerchiefs. Put your second finger through the cat-gut loop. Take hold of the tips of the three protruding white handkerchiefs in the left hand, drawing the ring back over them, still leaving the cat-gut loop in place over the base of the second finger.

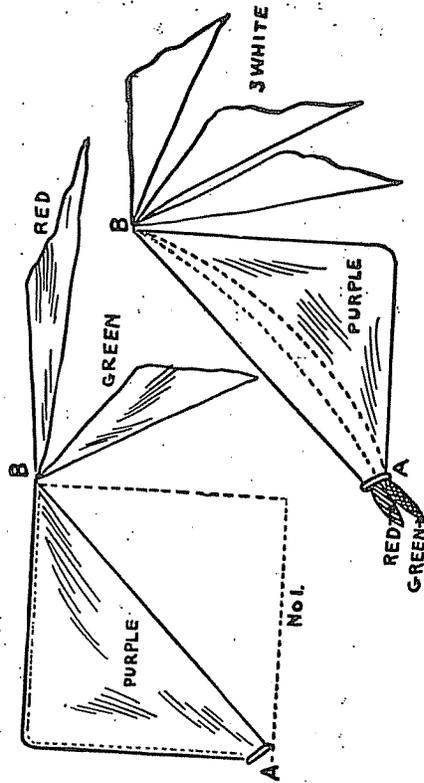


FIG. 48

Now do all three colored handkerchiefs up in a little bundle in the palm of the right hand, the ring in position where the knots in the three white handkerchiefs are tied together. By dropping the ring and vigorously shaking it, at the same time releasing all the handkerchiefs in the palm of the hand, the bag, owing to the weight of the ring, gathers in the three white handkerchiefs, giving the impression that they have turned to entirely different colors.

HOW TO VANISH THINGS FROM HANDKERCHIEFS

The following are a few simple and effective little tricks that can be worked into most any part of a magic handkerchief program.

They are not strictly handkerchief tricks but so far as your audience is concerned they will appreciate them as such. They are so simple to perform that I consider them worth while describing.

THE INVISIBLE HEN

Effect. The performer exhibits a handkerchief which he folds double, and holds by the corners over a borrowed hat. After shaking the handkerchief for a few seconds, an egg is seen to drop from it into the hat. Once more the handkerchief is shown

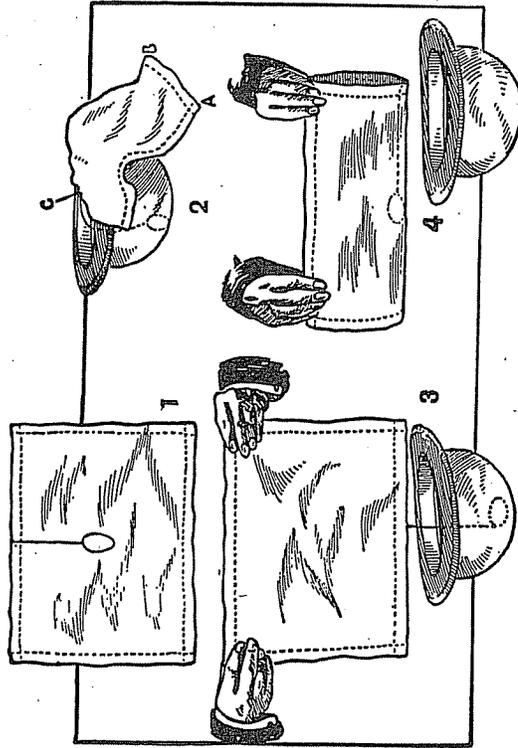


FIG. 49

unmistakably empty, and another egg is produced in the same mysterious manner. This is repeated until three or more eggs have been produced. Finally the hat apparently containing several eggs is given back to its owner, and to his astonishment, he finds it empty, for the eggs have entirely disappeared.

Secret. The handkerchief used in the trick should have a black silk thread attached to the center of one of its edges. To the other end is affixed an imitation egg so that when the handkerchief is held in position (shown in Figure 49), the egg comes to about the center of the handkerchief. Before presenting the trick, place the handkerchief upon the table, so that the egg is concealed in its fold. Now place the borrowed hat upon the table, crown up, beside the handkerchief. Pick up the handkerchief, and drop it over the edge of the hat, so that the egg goes inside the hat as shown in (2). Now pick up the corners of the handkerchief (A and B in 2) and hold it up, showing it on both sides. The egg, of course, remains in the hat. (See 3.) Now let the handkerchief back to its former position on the hat (2). When you pick it up this time, do so by grasping the handkerchief at the point where the thread is attached (C in 2) with the left hand and the two corners in the right hand, holding the handkerchief double, so that the egg is inside. Now, hold the handkerchief over the hat as in (4). By tilting the handkerchief slightly and at the same time shaking it, the egg will drop out into the hat. The black thread is invisible at a short distance. By repeating the moves described above the handkerchief can be shown repeatedly empty, and any number of eggs apparently produced. Finally, when the trick is finished, if desired, the thread can be pulled from the handkerchief, which together with the egg can be dropped behind some object on your table and then both handkerchief and hat can be passed for examination.

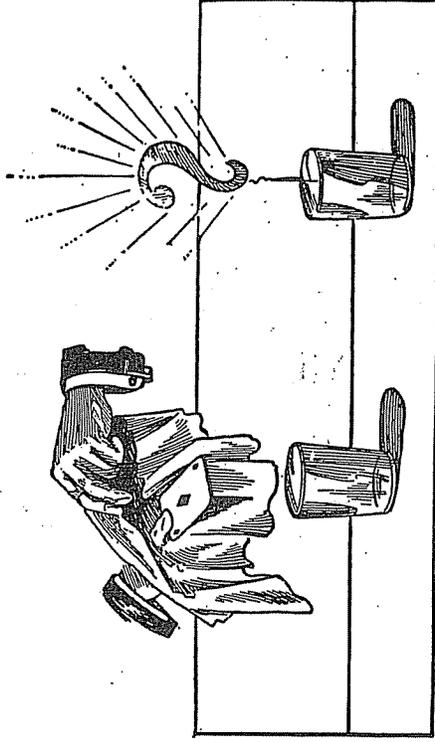


FIG. 50

VANISHING CARD FROM HANDKERCHIEF

The success of this splendid trick depends upon the celluloid trick card which, if placed in an ordinary drinking glass, is invisible when viewed from a short distance. Any card is selected and the performer places it in the glass in front of the celluloid card, calling attention to the fact that the card is perfectly visible. He withdraws it, at the same time removing the celluloid card concealed behind it. A borrowed handkerchief is now placed over both. Under cover of the handkerchief the celluloid card is pushed up with the right thumb. The left hand now holds under the cover of the handkerchief what the audience believes to be the card, and taking it to the glass, it is held over it. The right hand is now removed from under the handkerchief, first having palmed the real card. This appears perfectly natural as the left hand is apparently holding the card covered by the handkerchief (celluloid card gives the form of the playing card). It is now placed in the glass. The handker-

chief is removed and the card has vanished. (See Figure 50.) Really it is palmed in the right hand and can be reproduced from the performer's pocket, or in any other manner desired. Follow these directions closely with a card and the celluloid in your hands and practice the moves so as to perform them easily and naturally.

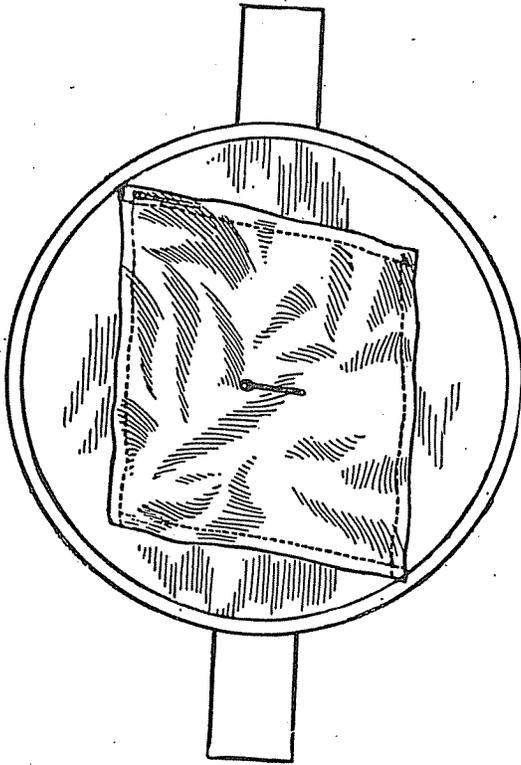


FIG. 51

MATCH IN HANDKERCHIEF

A match is laid upon the center of a handkerchief. (See Figure 51.) The handkerchief is then gathered up around the match, and some one is requested to break the match through the handkerchief. This is done, but when the handkerchief is unfolded the match is found to be unbroken.

This pretty effect is accomplished by a duplicate match, which has previously been inserted in the border of the handkerchief—in the hem. The duplicate is the one broken.