

January 2013

The Magic SYMBOL

Official Publication of The Society of Young Magicians

The Thumb Tip Issue



**Including
Ten Effects with a Thumb Tip**

S.A.M. SPOTLIGHT

THE 2013 S.A.M. NATIONAL CONVENTION

WASHINGTON D.C.

July 3-6, 2013
Marriott Hotel
Crystal Gateway
Arlington, VA



Whats on the Web

A brief look at what's happening in magic on the Internet

Thumb Tip Routine

This YouTube video shows an early video on Thumb Tip Magic performed - it will give you some good ideas on what your thumb tip magic should look like and you'll learn those effects in this issue.

Here's the link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=umAWh4VFFmY>



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S.Y.M. WEBSITE
www.magicsym.com

S.A.M. WEBSITE
www.magicsam.com

The Society of Young Magicians (S.Y.M.) sponsored by The Society of American Magicians, is a world-wide organization for youth, ages 7 through 17. (At age 18 you graduate to membership in The Society of American Magicians.) The purpose of S.Y.M. is to promote interest in magic as a wholesome hobby that will help develop self-confidence and skill, the ability to speak in public, discipline that comes from learning, practicing and performing magic, and a sense of service to others through helping others learn magic and by performing magic at charitable events.

The Society of Young Magicians has nearly 100 local chapters, called Assemblies, around the country. Adult supervision and instruction are provided by qualified members of the Society of American Magicians, one of the most prestigious world-wide organizations of its kind.

SYMentor



SYMentor@magicsam.com

HAVE A QUESTION? NEED ADVICE?
CAN'T FIGURE OUT A TRICK? NEED GUIDANCE?
DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO NEXT IN MAGIC?

The S.Y.M. has a panel of mentors ready to help you. Associate members who do not have an Assembly in their area now have a place to turn. Even members of a local Assembly can participate in this mentoring program. This is a free service and part of your S.Y.M. membership. To contact the SYMentor, simply e-mail your questions to:

SYMentor@magicsam.com

Your question will be directed to someone who will help you from our panel of experts. Parents of SYM'ers may also write with questions.

Be sure to get permission from your parents before writing.

Letter from the editor

Michael A. Raymer



The Thumb Tip The Magician's "Miracle" Gimmick

I can remember the first time I saw my first thumb tip. I had opened up my new Magic Set and there was this plastic thing that didn't look like a thumb or finger but a big orange plastic thing. As I read the instructions on how to use it, I thought to myself "this won't work - someone will see it" so I practiced and then tried the trick on someone and they were baffled. Not bad for something that didn't even look like a thumb.

The thumb tip is still one of magic's best secrets--if performed correctly. Many people believe it has been exposed too much, but if performed correctly you can hide the device from view and no one will ever know you are using it. This was shown to me by a lecturer one time when he showed us that what he was using was a green plastic bottle on his finger -- and we never saw it!

I remember seeing Lance Burton performing for our local news channel when they interviewed him at his home here in Kentucky and the effect he did for the camera was the vanishing cigarette. I knew he was using a thumb tip - but the average person did not because he did it with an "in your face" attitude - by having the camera zoom into his hands. Lance like so many other professional magicians know how to make a thumb tip disappear from view when it is right in sight all the time.

I hope you like this edition and try some of the effects that we explain here, because with the thumb tip you really can do a lot more than just vanish a silk. Just imagine that people have written entire books and recorded entire DVD's on the thumb tip. That has to tell you that this prop is so versatile the effects you can use it in are only limited by your imagination.

Lastly I want to wish everyone a happy new year - we made it through the supposed Mayan Apocalypse and we are still here. I look forward to another year as the editor of *The Magic SYMbol* and hope you enjoy and learn from it. I am really excited about the prospects for magic in the coming year because I know there are some great things that will be happening and I know that you SYM members will be leading the way and taking charge.

See you next month,

Michael

The Magic SYMbol

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HAS YOUR S.Y.M. MEMBERSHIP EXPIRED?

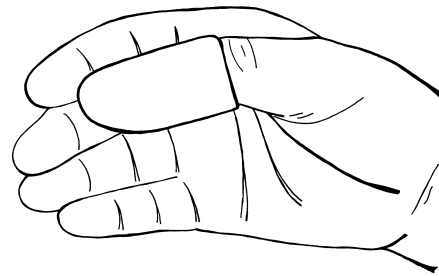
If it has you should be receiving your renewal information by mail, please remember to renew your membership.

The thumb tip has become an indispensable device that magicians can use to perform miracles in the eyes of the spectators. You'll see the Thumb Tip advertised as *The Magicians Secret Device*, *The Miracle Gimmick*, *The Vanishing Silk Trick Gimmick* and countless other names. In reality it's all the same, it's either a rubber or hard plastic thumb that fits over top of your own thumb.

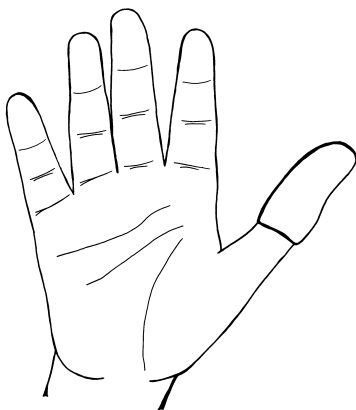
Today, however there are some on the market that are much better and so while you pay a little more for the better quality you will be getting a gimmick that will provide you a multitude of effects. In this edition of *The Magic SYMBOL* we'll show you some *Thumb Tip basics* and provide you with some other effects that you can accomplish with the thumb tip.

Thumb Tip Techniques:

1. When you wear the thumb tip, do not slide it over the knuckle. Not only will you have no room to load anything into the thumb tip, but you will also not be able to take off the thumb tip during the performance.

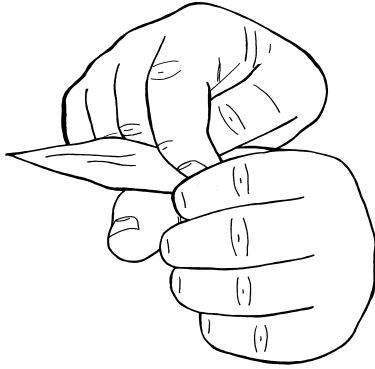


2. If your thumb tip is too large, wrap masking tape or scotch tape around the inside of the thumb tip. If you have an unusually large thumb, don't worry. As long as the thumb can fit a little into the thumb tip, you are all right. Don't worry how the thumb tip looks on your thumb, with proper technique, no one will notice it.



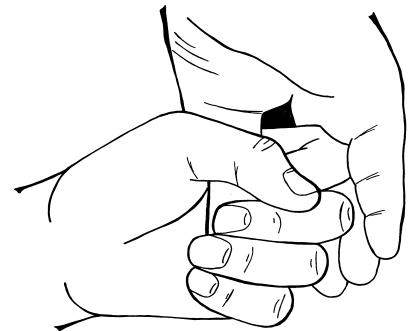
3. Do not stick your thumb with the thumb tip straight up into the air. This will cause the thumb tip to be very obvious to the spectators. Keep the thumb tip pointing directly towards the spectators and it will become practically invisible.

1. Before you perform the trick, place the thumb tip in your left hand. Curl your fingers around the thumb tip. Hold the silk with your right hand. Don't worry about your left hand, all attention will be on the silk.



2. After displaying the silk with your right hand, make your left hand into a fist. Slowly tuck the silk into your left hand (thumb tip).

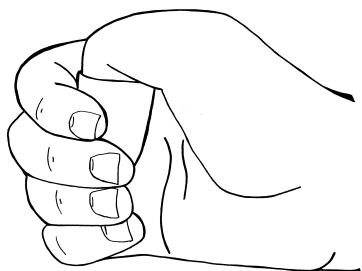
3. Continue pushing the silk into your fist until it is almost completely in the thumb tip. Push the remaining silk into the thumb tip with the thumb of your right hand. As you do this, firmly push your right thumb into the thumb tip. Secretly steal out the thumb tip as you move your right hand away.



4. Show your left hand empty. Gently brush your hands together (keep your right thumb pointing directly towards the spectator). This will subtly show both hands empty.

Reproducing The Silk

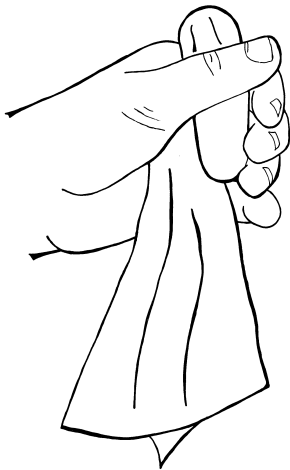
After the silk vanishes, you can cause it to reappear. This is done by bending your thumb (with thumb tip) into the palm of your hand. Remove your thumb from the thumb tip, and reach in with the other hand and remove the silk. This is very startling to the spectator because they just saw both hands completely empty.



Cut And Restored Napkin

This is a fun, impromptu, trick that only requires a napkin and your trusty thumb tip. The center of a handkerchief is cut out and then instantly restored.

1. Cut out a matching two or three inch square from a napkin or handkerchief and place it into your thumb tip. Place the prepared thumb tip on your right hand. You are ready to perform.



2. Show a duplicate handkerchief to the audience. Pick up the center of the handkerchief and place it into your right hand. As you make your left hand into a fist, leave the thumb tip in your hand. In the same motion, pull out a small piece of the napkin from the thumb tip so that it shows above your hand. It will look as if this little piece is the center of the handkerchief.

3. Tear or cut a piece off of the pulled out napkin. It will appear as if you are cutting the center of the napkin. Push the cut piece of napkin back into your thumb tip and “steal” it away with your right hand. Show that the napkin has restored.

Linking Paper Clips

Twelve unlinked paper clips are placed into your left fist, one at a time. When they are poured out, they have magically linked.

- 1.** Palm twelve linked paper clips and a thumb tip into your left hand.
- 2.** Push the twelve unlinked paper clips, one at a time, into your fist (thumb tip). When you push in the last paper clip, steal out the thumb tip with your right thumb. Show that the paperclips are now linked.

The Vanishing Salt Trick

This is a great impromptu trick you can perform in a restaurant or at the family dinner table. Salt is poured into the left hand. When the hand is opened, the salt has vanished. You then magically cause it to pour out of the right hand.

- 1.** Have the thumb tip in finger palm position in the left hand. Take off the lid of the salt shaker and slowly pour some salt into your left hand (thumb tip) until the thumb tip is about halfway full.
- 2.** Act as if you are brushing excess salt off of the top of your left hand and secretly steal away the thumb tip with your right thumb.
- 3.** Show that the salt has vanished from your left hand.
- 4.** Bend your right thumb down into your right fist and slowly pour the salt out of your right hand into a cup or tray.

Torn And Restored Sugar Packet

A sugar packet is opened and the sugar is poured into your fist. The packet is then ripped into pieces and also pushed into your fist. When you open your hand, the sugar packet has restored.

- 1.** Finger palm a sugar packet and a thumb tip in your left hand.
- 2.** Show a second sugar packet. Tear it open and pour the contents into your fist (thumb tip). Tear up the package and place it in the thumb tip and then steal away the thumb tip with your right hand.
- 3.** Open your left hand and show the restored sugar packet.

The Zombie Card

A playing card, credit card, or business card floats into the air.

1. To perform this trick you will need to place a small piece of wax or other sticky substance such as sticky-tac or double-stick tape and place it on the end of a thumb tip.
2. Stick the end of the thumb tip onto the back of the playing card. If you keep the playing card facing towards the spectator and spread your fingers, it will look like it is floating. This is very magical looking.

Change For A Dollar

A dollar bill is shown and magically changed to four quarters. The four quarter can then be used for a vending machine, etc.

1. Finger palm the four quarters and the thumb tip in your left hand.
2. Show the dollar and roll it into a loose ball. Push the bill into your left hand (thumb tip). Steal the thumb tip out of your left hand.
3. Open your left hand and show the four quarters.

Sweet Tooth

Sugar is poured into your fist along with a piece of foil. When you open your hand, a candy kiss is there. This is a great trick to perform for kids.

1. Finger palm a candy kiss and a thumb tip in your left hand.
2. Pour sugar into your fist (thumb tip). Rip off a small piece of foil and place it into your fist, also. As you push the piece of foil into your fist, steal out the thumb tip.
3. Open your hand and show the candy kiss.

The Ultimate Gypsy Thread

A piece of thread is cut or broken into several pieces. The pieces of thread are placed into your hand. When your hand is opened, the thread has restored and can be handed out for examination.

- 1.** A piece of thread and a thumb tip are placed in your left hand. You have an identical piece of thread which you hold in your right hand.
- 2.** Hand the thread to a spectator and ask him to break or cut it into several pieces. Take the pieces of thread from the spectator and place them into your left fist (thumb tip). Steal out the thumb tip with your right thumb.
- 3.** Open your hand and show that the thread has restored. Hand it out for examination.

The Gold Fish Production

Your hands are shown to be completely empty. A spectator is asked to hold a water goblet. You make your hand into a fist. When you turn your hand over, a gold fish slides out of your hand and into the goblet.

- 1.** Place a small gold fish with a little bit of water into a thumb tip. Place the thumb tip onto your right thumb just before the performance.
- 2.** Ask a spectator to hold onto a filled water goblet. Show both of your hands empty (remember to keep your thumb pointing directly towards the spectators). Make a fist with your right thumb, folding the thumb tip into your fist. Turn your hand over directly above the water goblet, allowing the gold fish to slide out and into the glass. Replace the thumb tip back onto your thumb and show both hands empty, again.

SYM Member Profiles

Meet your fellow SYM Magician

1. Joined S.Y.M.?

invite 3 people living or dead, who would you invite to be your guests?

2. Hobbies apart from magic?

3. Favorite magic book?

16. If you had real magical powers what magic trick would you want to be able to do, using no trick boxes, no sleight of hand, no gimmicks.

4. Favorite non-magic book?

5. Favorite movie?

6. Favorite music?

7. Favorite magicians?

8. What kind of magic do you enjoy the most?

9. Favorite Magic DVD?

10. Strongest magical influences?

11. Strongest non-magical influences?

12. Which Magician would you like most to be and why?

13. Top tip for getting into magic?

14. What was your first magic trick?

15. If you could have your own TV talk show and



S.Y.M. ACHIEVEMENT PIN PROGRAM

The S.Y.M. Achievement Pin Program allows S.Y.M. members to explore nine areas of magic, demonstrate skill in these areas, and receive recognition for their accomplishments. The progressive nature of the Achievement Pin Program also measures how young magicians are advancing in their magical journey. As candidates work from bronze to gold, they will learn valuable leadership skills aimed at increasing their confidence in all areas of life.

S.Y.M advisors are available to help members work toward earning their pins and to ensure that candidates meet all requirements. S.Y.M. members who do not belong to an S.Y.M. assembly will be able to receive help from advisors via mail or electronically.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The Achievement Pin Program coordinator will provide worksheets in which candidates and adult supervisors can record candidates' progress.
2. Advisors or organizers must return completed forms to the Achievement Pin Program coordinator. Completed paperwork will be forwarded to the S.Y.M. director, after which pins will be awarded.
3. Pins will be awarded for completed tricks only. In other words, demonstrating a Double Lift or a French Drop does not count. The Double Lift must be presented within a completed trick; e.g., using a Double Lift to force or find a card.
4. Members may receive pins in more than one category, as long as all requirements are met for each category.
5. S.Y.M. assembly members will test for pins at an assembly meeting.
6. Associate S.Y.M. members will test for pins by submitting an application, along with a video, DVD or electronic link to the Achievement Pin Program Coordinator.
7. Each candidate will submit an application fee of
\$4.00 for each bronze and silver pin, and
\$5.00 for each gold pin.



**Make your check out to the Society of Young Magicians.
Mail it and your Completed Application to:**

*Marlene Clark
SYM Achievement Pin Program Coordinator
435 Main St.
Durham, CT 06422*

S.Y.M. ACHIEVEMENT PIN PROGRAM

1. **Categories:** Members may perform stage, standup (parlor), and/or close-up magic. They will be awarded bronze and silver pins in the following categories and gold “Excellence in Magic” pins.

Cards	Coins	Silk	Paper
Sponge	Rope	Animals	Mentalism
General Magic (Miscellaneous)			

2. Requirements

A. Bronze:

- (1) Candidates must be a member for at least three months.
- (2) Candidates must give and explain the S.Y.M. Pledge.
- (3) Candidates must demonstrate skill in three effects in one category: three card tricks or three sponge tricks, for example.
- (4) Candidates must be able to describe each effect and provide the proper or technical term for the effect or move, if applicable: Professor’s Nightmare, French Drop or Glide, for example.
- (5) Candidates will be judged on execution and basic skill; e.g., don’t tip the method.

B. Silver

- (1) Candidates must give and explain the S.Y.M. Pledge.
- (2) Candidates must have earned two bronze pins in the same category – a total of six tricks for that category.
- (3) Candidates will perform a three-to-four minute routine. There is no limit to the number of effects used, but at least two must be from a bronze routine in order to get a silver pin in that category.
- (4) Candidates will be judged on execution, skill and presentation.
- (5) Candidates must write a report of at least 250 words on one famous magician for each silver pin.

C. Gold

- (1) Candidates must have earned a Silver pin in three different categories to qualify for a gold pin.
- (2) Candidates will present an 8-to-10-minute act with a unifying theme or presentation. One effect must be from a silver routine. The act will be judged on skill, presentation, appearance, stage presence (even in close-up), confidence, audience appeal, appropriateness, timing, and public speaking ability (if applicable).
- (3) Candidates will also present their gold medal performances as a community service project for the public at a venue of their choice.
- (4) Candidates will make a five-to-10 minute oral presentation on any area of magic before an S.Y.M. or S.A.M. meeting or public venue, such as a classroom or library. The candidate will be judged on knowledge of material, organization, delivery, appearance, and public speaking ability. Suggested topics include, but are not limited to, magic history, biography (different from the Silver presentation) and magic theory.
- (5) Candidates are responsible for organizing and making all arrangements for all presentations. Following presentations, candidates will submit a report to the adult advisor detailing the work done.

We Want You

To Share your magic!

Have pictures from your SYM assembly meeting?

Send them in!

Have a "new" twist on an "old" trick?

Share it!

Have an article you wrote on a famous magician?

Send it to us!

Send by email to: funmagic@iglou.com

By mail to:

SYMBol Editor

5512 Pavilion Way, Louisville, KY 40291 USA



Other Thumb Tip Resources - Check your local magic shop for details.

