



Inside Ed's Head

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I Teach a Coin Trick! (Is it the Apocalypse?)

Sometime late last year I was browsing the internet, following magic links from site to site—you know how it goes. I came across a four DVD set of J.B. Bobo's *Modern Coin Magic*. It was moderately priced on the site I was on, but for the heck of it, I went to www.amazon.com and found it for about \$16. That's right—about \$4 for each DVD.

Comparing the table of contents of the DVDs with the book, I found it contained all the chapters of the original with the exception of three: Stage Coin Magic, The Stanley Collins Section, and 18 Routined Coin Acts. You get thirteen chapters worth of information, more than 170 items. (I'll now go back to the expanded edition and read all the chapters that I've missed.)

I had gone through Bobo when I was a kid, and bought the expanded edition when it came out. I learned several deceptive vanishes, the coin roll, and could even play piano scales with a coin classic palmed in my right hand. I never had the soul of a "Coin Man." I could make a coin vanish, and did so in my birthday party routine. (To be reproduced from the mouth of my assistant via a coin wand.) That was it. One coin vanish. I rarely performed any coin magic as an adult. I thought this DVD set would be good to jog my creative juices and help me become a more well-rounded magician.

After watching all of these DVDs I decided to put together a short routine that would be somewhat amusing, avoid the "It's in the other hand!" problem, and have an incontrovertible finish.

First Routine from Ed Using Coins (FREUC)

Effect: The magician places a coin in his left hand—it vanishes. He claims it's still in his other hand but it's now invisible. The "invisible" coin is now pushed through the back of the magician's left fist. Upon opening the fist, the coin is now visible.

The magician takes the coin, and says he'll push it through the back of his left fist again. He does this, but when the fist is opened, it's empty. The magician gestures with his empty right hand, and explains he's made the coin invisible again so it can penetrate more easily. He pushes the invisible coin through the back of his fist, and upon opening it, the coin is now visible.

Finally, the fist is closed on the coin, and the magician waves his right hand over it. The fist is opened; the coin is gone! Both hands can be shown cleanly—because you are clean.

Method: Start the routine by displaying a half-dollar in your right hand. Make a false transfer to the left hand, getting the coin in thumb palm as you do so. There are many ways to do this, if you know one, use it, and skip the next paragraph. Here's how I do it. (It's different from Bobo.)



Start with the coin on the extended fingers of the right hand (Photo 1.)

Photo 1

Turn your hand palm down as you curl your fingers toward your palm. (Photo 2.)



Photo 2

Press the coin into your thumb crotch as you feign dropping the coin into your left hand. (Photos 3-4.) Note that your right hand hovers over the left fist after you're done. (Photo 5.)



Photo 3 (Bottom View)



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6

Wave your right hand over the left and open your hand to show the coin has vanished. You'll now do a "Changeover Pass" to show the left, and then the right hand empty. Rub your right fingertips lightly back and forth over the open left hand, saying, "It's not here." Turn the left hand palm down, and rub your right fingertips over the back of the hand. "It's not here, either." On the last right to left motion, your hands should appear as in Photo 6. Your right hand will begin to pivot face up, and in the process you'll clip the thumb-palmed coin between your left middle and ring fingers as your left hand moves in tandem with the right. (Photo 7.)



Photo 7



Photo 8

Your left middle, ring and little fingers will curl into your palm as your extended index finger points to your empty right hand while you say, "Actually, it's right here, but I've made it invisible." (Photo 8.)



Photo 9

Now pretend to slide the "invisible coin" up to your right fingertips. (Photo 9.)

Hold this "coin" in your right hand and say that you can do an amazing thing with it. Pretend to hold it over your closed left fist. (Photo 10) Pretend to push this coin through the back of your left hand. (Photo 11.)



Photo 10



Photo 11



Photo 12

Open the left hand to show that the coin has penetrated, and turned visible in the process. Pick up the coin in the right fingertips and hold it against the back of the closed left fist, as you did with the “invisible” coin. (Photo 12.) Say that shortly after a coin turns visible, you can still push it through your hand. Pretend to push the coin, but really let it slide behind your right fingers. (Photo 13.)



Photo 13



Photo 14

Turn your left hand palm up, in front of, and slightly above your right hand, which maintains its position. (Photo 14.)

Say, “Wait, it hasn’t gone yet; it’s still here.” As you do this your left hand turns its back to the audience as your right hand rises to a vertical position, tossing its coin into the left hand in transit. Your left hand will conceal this move from the audience. (Photos 15-16) The right hand indicates the “invisible coin” it now holds.



Photo 15



Photo 16

You now repeat pushing the invisible coin through your left fist as you did earlier. Open the left hand to show that the coin is visible once more.



Photo 17

Leave the coin on your left fingertips and begin to close your left hand and turn it palm down as in the mirror image of Photo 2. This time, instead of thumb-palming the coin, you'll put it into back heel-clip position. (Photo 17.)



Photo 18

left shoulder. (Photo 19.)

Make a small rubbing action with your right hand over the left. (Photo 18.) Rotate your left fist palm up; this will virtually push the heel-clipped coin into right-hand thumb palm. (Don't move your right thumb as this happens; let the rotation of your left hand push the coin into thumb palm.) As soon as the coin is secured you'll start a broad waving motion over the left arm and closed left fist by bringing your right hand to about the level of your



Photo 19



Photo 20

to reveal the coin has vanished. You're done.

Wave your right hand down the length of your left arm until it passes beyond your left fist (Photo 20), and then bring it back to your left shoulder again. (Photo 19.) You'll now do a second waving motion, but on the way down, you'll drop the thumb palmed coin into your left breast pocket. (You might want to put a crumpled up tissue in that pocket, to hold it open a bit.) Make a third waving gesture, and as soon as your right hand passes the left fist, open it

What if you don't have a breast pocket or want to continue the routine by making the coin reappear?



Photo 21

Instead of dumping the coin in your breast pocket, keep it thumb palmed. As you wave your right hand over the left, open your left fingers to reveal the coin has vanished. (Photo 21).



Photo 22

Move your right hand back over your left, a little past the wrist. As you do so, close your left fingers. (Photo 22.) Move your hand back to the position shown in Photo 21, opening your left fingers again. Repeat this back and forth motion a few times, but on your last move to your left, release the thumb-palmed coin into the left hand as the fingers close. This load will go unseen.

Finally, move your hand back to your right and open your left fingers. The appearance of the coin will be very startling.

I hope you've noticed that I constructed this routine to avoid the problem that always crops up when you make a coin vanish. Someone will always say, "It's up your sleeve," or "It's in your other hand." In this routine I always have a reason to show the other hand empty—not to thumb my nose at the audience, but to use that hand in the context of what I'm doing.

If you've stuck with me through all of this, you've learned a routine that employs six or seven sleights—and takes less than a minute to perform. I guess that's why I never performed a lot of coin magic, I couldn't figure out how to involve an audience in a magical experience for any length of time. There is always an element of astonishment when a coin vanishes, or appears in an empty hand, but unless you can add to these in a logical manner you don't have enough material for an engaging magical performance.

Perhaps in time I'll learn how to improve on it.

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