

Magicalendar

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Magic Show



Richard Robinson presents a self-working mental stunner that requires minimal preparation to produce a surprising effect.

BILL MENTAL

By Richard Robinson

The magician removes his billfold and hands it to a spectator. The magician then turns his back on the spectator.

"Please take all the dollar bills out of the wallet," the magician says to the spectator.

"Now place some of the bills down on the table in a row. You can place however many you'd like in the row."

When the spectator confirms that he's done that, the magician continues. "From the bills that remain in your hand, make a second row of bills on the table, just below the first row. This second row should have one less dollar bill than the first."

Again the spectator confirms that the actions have been carried out.

"Take two dollar bills from the top row, place them back in the billfold. Once you've done that, however many dollars you have in the top row, remove exactly that many from the bottom row. Put whatever is left in the bottom row in your pocket. Put the rest of the bills back into the billfold and close the billfold."

The magician now turns to face the spectator. He stares at the close billfold and the spectator for a moment, then tells the spectator how much money he put in his pocket. The magician is absolutely correct.

'Bill Mental' started life as a card trick with Australian escapeologist Murray credited as its inventor. As a card effect it is not particularly special. As a mental effect using dollars bills (or whatever you prefer as your local currency) it is a strong impromptu effect. The reason of course being that the 'value' of each bill confuses the issue and effectively masks the 'mathematical' method.

Props & Setup

A billfold and a quantity of dollar bills. The bills are placed in the billfold to start and the billfold placed in a coat pocket.

Routine

Your instructions to the spectator are also how the effect is done:

"Take all the money out of the wallet."

"Make a row of dollar bills left to right on the table."

"Make a second row below that with one less dollar." "Take three [This is your choice and can vary.] dollars from the top row and put it back in the wallet."

"However many dollars you have in the top row, remove that many dollars from the second row."

"Now whatever is left in the second row, put in your pocket."

"Put all the dollar bills that you have on the table back in the wallet." "You have two [Amount you said to remove from top row minus one.] dollars in your pocket."



The spectator places a random number of bills from left to right to form the top row. Then following the performer's instructions places a second row of bills below the top row. The second row contains one less bill than the top row.



The performer instructs the spectator to remove a certain number of bills from the top row. In this example, the performer tells the spectator to remove three bills from the top row.



The spectator is told to remove as many bills from the second row as there are in the top row. In this case there are three bills in the top row, so the spectator removes three bills from the second row. This leaves two bills in the second row. The number of bills left in the second row is always one less than the number of bills the performer initially tells the spectator to remove from the top row.

Performance Notes

To avoid the spectator running out of bills, keep an additional supply in your pocket. So, after they've layed out the top row, if they tell you they don't have enough for the bottom row, just hand them a bunch more.

This is fairly powerful mindreading considering the method. It will work just as well one-on-one as before an audience.

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