

Introduction for Inspector #1953

I came up with this trick, years ago while “tooling” around with the Knife Through Coat effect and it’s a lot of fun to perform.

It is a great effect for the children and the parents will love it too! I use it as a “sure-fire” introduction to a table with children when table-hopping in restaurants. Those who love table-hopping know how difficult it is to sometimes approach a table.

There are many ways to approach tables – but one of the best ways is to approach the children. Parents love it when you entertain their children and this automatically takes them out of the “lime-light”...you are there to entertain them!

As you approach the table, you smile at the parents, give them a “nod” and then immediately focus your attention on the children. Proceed with the below effect...and someone will chase you down and give you a nice tip after performing!

This effect should be performed with “flare” and a lot of enthusiasm! Enjoy!

INSPECTOR #1953

(From my e-book “A Fix on Six” @ Lybrary.com)

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EFFECT: The performer introduces himself and suddenly notices a shirt or jacket that “reminds” him of a time when he was a fabric inspector at a clothing mill!

The performer then demonstrates how he used to “test” fabrics by poking around with the shirt or jacket of a child present.

Suddenly the magician’s thumb pokes right through the fabric of the child’s shirt! Oh no! The performer is overly apologetic. The magician then magically “mends” the hole – to the relief of all! This is a lot of fun and is very easy to do! Play this up!

Of course, you need a Thumb Tip (T.T.). I put one on my right thumb and begin my presentation. I’ll give my patter, below. I will present this as an opening effect, as I normally perform while table-hopping in restaurants.

Patter

“Hi everyone! I just noticed that your son (or daughter) has a shirt (or coat, jacket, etc.) that looks like the same weave at the mill where I used to be inspector!” (Begin to examine the fabric by pulling at it a little bit!)

“Have you ever seen the little strips of paper in one of the pockets that says ‘Inspected by # so and so?’ I used to be Inspector #1953! Have you ever seen my work?” (You will be surprised at how many people will nod their heads, yes!)

“It was my job to find any flaws in the print or weave of the fabric! I used to do this inspecting thing all day long but I got yelled at all the time because sometimes I damaged the fabric!”

“Oops! Oh no! I did it again! I’m so sorry! Please let me fix this! PHEWW! There – it’s fixed! You know, whenever I did this – I always used magic to repair the damage! But, I got fired anyway! Oh well – on to bigger and better things!”

NOTE: Below, under **METHOD:** I’ve given the actions that will coincide with the patter above.

NOTES: Let me begin by saying – whatever your initial thoughts are concerning this routine – forget them and JUST DO IT! If you are restaurant magician – heed the below advice...

Parents, as well as the kids, laugh so hard at this routine that you have an automatic opening for further performances at that table. Also, all of the tables within ear-shot, will welcome you to their table!

Table-hoppers will know how difficult it is sometimes, to approach people. I always use the children as an easy “in” to perform at a table. I then perform this little effect at a brisk pace.

I ignore the adults and act as though only the children are present! Most parents love the fact that their kids are receiving attention – instead of them! The children will almost always welcome a performer and immediately become intrigued!

This same advice works for sponge balls, coins or any other type of magic that is geared for children!

METHOD: As I begin the above patter, I have already placed the T.T. on my right thumb.

At a certain point in the patter (paragraph #3), I start to “check out” the fabric on the child’s shirt or coat.

As I continue the patter, both of my hands are holding onto the fabric with my fingers of my *right hand* on top and my thumb (with T.T) below, out of sight! **(See 1.1)** My left is just the opposite – fingers below and out of sight and the thumb on top.



I then transfer the T.T. from my right thumb into my left fingers with the opening of the T.T. facing upward. My left fingers are grasping the T.T. below the fabric. Your left thumb kind of holds the fabric out flat with the *opening* of the T.T. pressed up against it. This “frees” up your RH. **(See 1.2)**

As you tell of your “duties” as a fabric inspector, you suddenly act as though you accidentally pushed your right thumb right through the fabric! This is exactly the point where you say, **“Oops! Oh no!”** Your right thumb has pressed *down* on the fabric and *directly into the thumb tip* below! **(See 1.3)**

This is a very surrealistic moment! The spectators are unsure of what to do or think – so they laugh hysterically!

As you say, "***I did it again!***" turn your right palm upwards so that the T.T. is in view and **wiggle** it for a couple of seconds and then turn your right hand palm down again so that the T.T. is out of view.

It will appear as if your thumb has pushed **right through the fabric!** Do this quickly (wiggling your thumb) and then immediately turn your right thumb downward so it is, again, out of sight!

Say this loudly and act as though you are horrified at your own clumsy conduct! Look furtively all around as if you were trying to hide your goof! This is where your acting skills come into play!

Pull your right thumb out of the T.T., grasped by the left fingers underneath the fabric. Then place your right fingers over the supposed hole, rubbing that spot **as if hiding the hole.**

Your right thumb goes back under the fabric (out of site) as you place the T.T. back onto your right thumb, assisted by the left fingers.

Rub the spot where the supposed hole is with your right fingers as you say the final line of patter above. Slowly remove your right fingers to show that the hole has been repaired!

Everyone will be very pleased **and** relieved! **PLAY THIS UP!** Wait until you see the looks on the spectators' faces! This is truly a **great** "***ice-breaker***"!