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**Learning The Tricks: Buy Or Make Your Props**

**By Preston Houer**

Magic is such an illusive matter that people tend to believe that something extraordinary can really happen. In most cases, magicians will create illusions in order to divert the people's attention from reality to pure fantasy. It is when people disappear; bodies can float in mid-air, etc.

That is why every magician knows that whatever he does in front of the audience, he is actually making people entertained and amused.

What most people do not know is that the magic tricks that magicians perform are not purely skills. Their props contribute to their success as well. This is because magicians can never perform their tricks without their props.

As they say, props can make or unmake a magician. Defective props, and not just improper coordination of skills, may contribute to the failure of the show. Hence, it is important to know how to buy or make the right stuff in order to perform their best.

Here is a list of some tips that you can use when buying or making your own props:

1. Know your tricks

The problem with most magicians is that they are not well versed on their tricks. That is why they do not know what type of props is appropriate for a particular trick.

For this reason, it is extremely important for the magician to familiarize himself with the kind of tricks that he will perform so that he will know what to props to buy or make.

2. Never buy trick coins or cards.

This will only create an impression on your audience that there might be something special on the coins or cards that you cannot use a normal item.

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Hence, even if props are important in generating a successful show, it is best not to purely rely on them. It would be better if you will use the normal coins or cards and practice your tricks.

It really pays to practice a lot than to execute your tricks at once but the show is entirely dependent on the props.

### 3. Well maintained props generate more money

Keep in mind that it is important for every magician to maintain his props. It does not matter whether you have bought the props or you have just made them yourself. What matter most is how you try to preserve its efficiency by maintaining its color, vibrancy, beauty, and quality.

Remember that taking your props for granted and using defective props may ruin your career.

### 4. Keep them away from any harmful products

In order to maintain the goodness and quality of your props, it would be better if you will keep in them in places where they are away from dust, moisture, and dirt.

Making them last longer will definitely bring you more benefits and will keep you from buying and making props repeatedly.

### 5. Test or inspect the product before you leave the store

If you will be buying your props from a magic store or any novelty store for that matter, try to inspect meticulously the overall composition of the item.

Check for broken parts or loose portions. This may ruin your act once you are using them in your show.

### 6. Go for the best items; look for the magician's props

If you really want to obtain the best quality when it comes to props, it would be better if you consider the props of a professional or well-known magician. These products are known to be of high quality considering the fact that they were endorsed by a famous magician who can attest its efficiency.

These props are considered as those that have been tried and tested.

### 7. Go for the bundle

If you are just a budding magician, it is best if you will not spend too much just buying props. Either you could make your own or you could go for bundles. This means that you can save more money if you will buy props that are included in a package.

For instance, you could get a sales package wherein the box that was used could also be utilized as a table during the show or performance.

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Boiled down, buying or making props is relatively important to the success of a specific performance. Hence, you should be very particular when choosing the best props to use.

Preston Houer has been involved with the art of illusion and sleight of hand for over 30 years. Let Preston show you how to Have Fun With Magic. Visit His Site Today!

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### **Learning The Tricks: Buy Or Make Your Props Part 2**

**By Preston Houer**

For beginner magicians, it is a combination of skills, talents, and acquired tricks that brings magic to life. However, for those who haven't really tried any magic at all, there is one question always asked – "Do they have to buy the props for their tricks or just make them themselves?" Don't worry tips and practical suggestions will be given as readers go along this article.

The only problem with learning different tricks for beginners is that they do not know what is in store for them in the magic world. Before even buying or trying anything, the very first thing that they will have to do is get books that relate to magic that tackle the different areas of magic and then decide which specific magic tricks they will be focusing on. Once this has been decided, watch a few magic shows or with magicians that do such tricks. It will be very thrilling of course and the beginner will end up buying a lot of stuff almost everytime. The experience they get from just seeing a lot of the supplies in magic stores that provide a lot of samples and information about how such trick will be made with its effect is very pleasing to the eyes. It's like giving the beginner the idea that he'll soon be an expert and very powerful. Just the thought of young men gasping and young women fantasizing gives him the chills.

On the other hand, buying more of the supplies and props for the trick is not as important as really knowing all the secrets and skills to perform such trick. Some aspiring magicians have wasted months and even years in buying the props they needed only to realize in the end that they should have done things differently. Effort should be exerted more in understanding and practicing a specific trick thoroughly. Instead of buying props and supplies, books should be bought. Even videos that show how to do the trick is not as helpful as doing it personally and visualizing the action when reading.

Here are tips in order to specialize on a specific trick before investing in a lot of materials:

- Buy or borrow books to get more information about magic, from its history up to how it is being done in front of an audience.
- The internet could also be a very good source of information.
- Visualize and ponder about how the trick is can be performed effectively.
- Go to magic stores to examine the props and supplies, chat with some of the magic enthusiasts, ask questions from the dealer, or even watch demos. Keep everything in mind, those can be bought next

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time when already sure of the trick to be used.

- Instead of buying new cards with holes in the middle, why not ask anyone who has an old deck of cards not being used anymore.
- Recycle materials that can be suitable for the trick being practiced. Card boxes, matchboxes, sticks and cloths can be available at any home. Practice first, once the trick is mastered, then go buy materials from the magic store so that the whole thing will be presentable to the audience.

Friends and dealers in a magic shop will be demonstrating something that is a totally new trick that causes amazement. There are even those who can afford such luxury of the hobby, get to spend up to

a hundred bucks a week just buying props. Buying them could be fun because of their color and sounds or excitement they provide. Just be careful of some tricks that could be very entertaining during the demo but end up terrifying the audience. Also, there are some tricks that do not exactly work as they do in the store. Those who buy those stuff end up throwing it away and develop the "Next Time" syndrome (buy another, new one next time).

Keep in mind that magic does not lie on the trick made or bought, not on the way the coin was folded, not in the way the money was printed. The whole thing lies in the playful imagination of the minds of the audience. The real secret occurs when a magician competently manipulates the minds into a reaction that experience the magic.

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