

# Meet the Johnsons

... from Washington State, Bruce and Carole, a.k.a. "Charlie and Pookie." Charlie, *The Juggling Clown*, has been clowning since 1974. He is an internationally known clown and teacher. Both Charlie and Pookie teach at Clown Camp.

Carole has a smile that will melt any heart. She is the official clown for Stevens Hospital in Lynnwood, WA. She is also very involved in a pet therapy program. She raises and trains Golden Retrievers and takes the dogs to four different nursing homes on a regular basis.

At our Caring Clown Retreat, Carole showed us loop magic. Bruce was kind enough to allow us to print his description. Because the loops are so inexpensive you can teach the trick to children, give them the loops and let them practice so they can then show their visiting friends and families. Great for teenagers!



## Weaving Loop Magic . . . . . by Bruce "Charlie" Johnson

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Props: Two Jersey Weaving Loops of contrasting colors. These are sold at craft stores in large bags so you will have lots of sets to give away. [They are also sold in fabric stores and craft departments of places like KMart. They are used for making pot holders etc. My New York Fabric store has nylon neon loops -- \$1.99 for a package of 200.]

Transposition: Insert the lighter colored loop through the center of the darker loop. Fold the lighter loop in half. Put your thumb through both halves of the light loop. Bring the tip of your first finger to the tip of your thumb making the okay sign and imprisoning the lighter loop on your thumb.

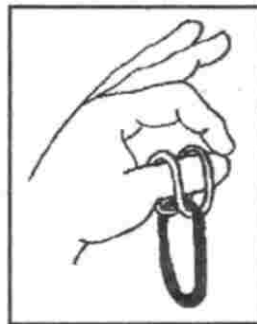


Figure 1

Call attention to which color loop is around your thumb. Grab any part of the lighter loop, and pull down. The two loops will change positions. (Figure 2) Pull down on any part of the darker loop, and they will return to their original positions. You can do this several times.

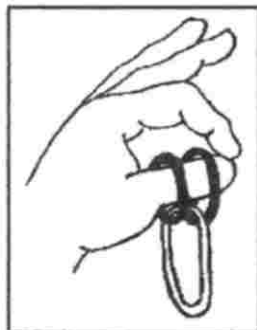


Figure 2

Penetration: Lift your first finger. Take the lower end of the bottom loop. Bring it up and over your thumb. Bring your first finger back down into the okay sign.

Grab the part of the loop that is closest to your wrist. (Figure 3 Point A) Pull outward and the loop will appear to penetrate your thumb and the other loop which is left hanging from your thumb. (Figure 4)

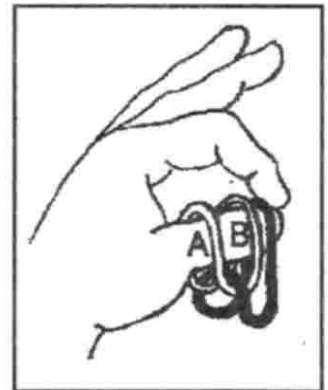


Figure 3

If you make a mistake, and pull the wrong portion of the loop, (Figure 3 Point b) instead of penetrating, the two loops will become linked.

Magician's Choice: Albert Alter suggested a method of making the finish seem even more magical using a technique called the magician's choice. Ask them to name one of the colors. If they name the lighter color, say, "Okay, I'll make that one penetrate and come off my thumb." If they name the darker color, say "Okay, I'll leave that one on my thumb." In either case you make the light colored one come off.

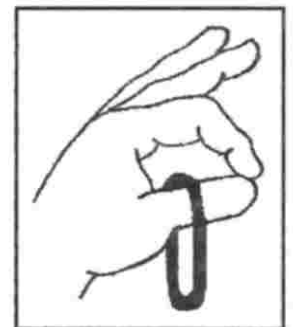


Figure 4

\* *The Clown in Times* is published quarterly by Charlie's Creative Comedy, P.O. Box 82165, Kenmore, WA 98028-0165. (\$20 USA, \$22 Foreign. Back issues available.)