

Review By Shobi Dobi

“A simple magic trick can pull a patient's attention away from the stressors of the clinical and take them to a realm of possibilities – a realm of hope, humor and trust. We hospital clowns do it all the time. Here is a book written for medical staff using "stuff" that is just around the clinic. This fabulous book will give medical staff enough "know how" to be able to use magic to enter this playful relationship. Can you find a better realm in which to practice your medicine?” That is the review Shobi wrote for Amazon.com

Side FX (pronounced side-effects) is a book not just for physician magicians, but a book that all hospital, nursing home, and ambassador clowns are going to love. Mainly because it is magic done with common articles that are just around the clinic. These are tricks you can share with children, adults and staff. Many of the “tricks” you might know, but Scott and Harrison add their master magicians’ professional touch and tips.

Shobi was in contact with Scott Tokar during the completion of this book and witnessed his excitement in being able to offer this book as a service to the world. While making visits with his son to hospitals and clinics, Scott would do simple magic tricks. After seeing how simple magic could soften the frightening medical environment, the idea came to him for this book.

You will want a copy of this book for yourself. When you know all the “tricks” in the book, give a copy to your favorite doctor; or give it as a gift to the medical staff or better yet to the hospital library.

“Magic is – there’s no other way to say it – magic. . . when it comes to instilling confidence and inspiration. Patients like to watch magic, and they love to learn to do it themselves. By imparting a skill even an “able-bodied” person doesn’t have, you help patients acquire the assurance they need to persevere with a sense of determination and even joy. Magic’s therapeutic benefits are not an illusion.”

– David Copperfield, from the introduction of Side-Fx..

Below is a sample of a magic trick that will give you an idea of the type and quality of the instructions in this book. Note that every magic trick has an icon key (not reproduced here) that will indicate the Skill Level and the area of benefit.

Floating Paper Cup

Benefits:

- Rapport Builder
- Time-saver
- Just for fun
- Skill level ①

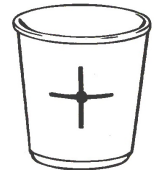


Diagram 30

Preview:

This requires a little advance preparation, but it is very minor and easy to do. Simply make two cuts in the cup to form an X. Make each cut slightly less than an inch long. See Diagram 30. Now place the cup back into the dispenser.

Fx

When the moment is right show the patient your ability to make things float. Remove your prepared cup from the dispenser. Hold it casually, with the pre-cut side of the cup facing your chest.

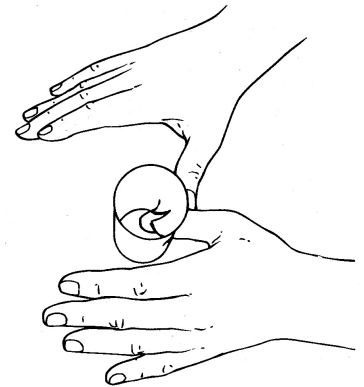


Diagram 31

Standing in front of the patient, re-grip the cup by the sides. Secretly insert your left thumb into the carved-out X. Once secure, move your hands apart, as shown in Diagram 31. The cup appears to be floating in midair between your hands.

Make sure to point your thumb directly at the patient’s line of sight. The view from the patient’s perspective is outlined in Diagram 32.

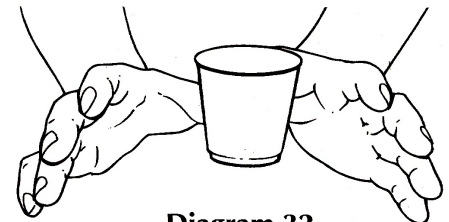


Diagram 32

After a few seconds, grab the cup with both hands and pull it back. You may want to comment about its floating ability as you crumple the cup and toss it in the trash can.

Professional Tip: This trick is a natural for a dentist. Before asking the patient to rinse, make the cup float.



The DVD! Beautifully done, instructive and makes the magic simple enough for all us clowns and clown doctors, and our health care staff friends.

Side-FX is available worldwide through www.amazon.com, www.barnes&noble.com and at independent magic shops worldwide. For more information, visit www.sidefxmagic.com