A "KNOTTY" ROUTINE.
Anon.

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I have been using the following routine with great success in all my shows and entertainments and with the latest effect "KING KOBRA", the Mystic Silk Of India, you have one of the most beautiful silk effects in magic. Some of the knots in this routine you may know already, but at least four of them are very little known so be sure to try them.

Start by showing a large silk 36 by 36" rolling it rope fashion to represent the KOBRA SNAKE. Tell the audience that every time you tie the snake into a knot she shakes it off. Illustrate this by holding the silk as per drawing No. 1. Hold silk at ends, bring right hand end in front (or over) left end and hold with thumb of right hand (see drawing). Now put right hand into loop and bring the lower end through the loop (see fig. 2) palm of left hand facing audience - as you pull this end, second and third fingers of left are pulled out of the loop forming a knot which looks genuine, but it is not. To dissolve it just shake the silk hard and it will vanish. You can also cover it with right hand and make it vanish by rubbing it.

Explain that the only way you can keep the snake tied is by making an instantaneous knot and hold the ends all the time. This you do as follows: Hold silk as shown in fig. 4, bring hands together and with second and third fingers of each hand get hold of the contrary ends, ie, right gets left end, left gets right end (see drawing No. 5) let go the original hold. Result is shown in fig. 6.

Tell your audience that the snake sometimes ties itself into a knot when you throw it in the air, and you can do this by placing the silk in your hand as fig. 7. Palm towards audience - now turn palm towards floor and with a quick jerk catch the end nearest you with first and second fingers, this automatically throws the loop off hand forming the knot, throw the whole high in the air, and it looks as if the knot was made while silk is falling. A real pretty effect. Try this by all means, it is easy and you won't regret it.

Now you say: "Ladies and gentlemen, no matter how intricate a knot I make with the Mystic Silk of India it will always shake it of....Watch...."Get silk as shown in fig. 8. Hands about ten inches apart, left hand palm up, right hand palm down, bring hands together, right turns under silk, while left turns over (study drawings 8 and 9) and with first and second fingers of each hand grab the silk at spots marked "A" and "B".

Pull fingers off loops and you will have a knot like the one in fig. 10. This is known as the (Tom Fools Knot). Put index and thumb of left hand through loop, and pull the ends. Result is shown in fig. 13. This also looks like a genuine knot, but you can vanish it by simply pulling the ends.

"Now my dear friends, I will show you a possible impossibility, with the charmed Silk Of India. Everybody knows that it is impossible to tie a knot without letting the ends go, but look, I take the silk, holding the ends like this - (Fig. 14) (follow as shown in figs. 15-16) throw the right over the left. Put the right hand end through the loop (bringing it out through the upper loop (fig. 16) and here is a GENUINE KNOT". Show that it is a GENUINE KNOT and then untie it. Do it over again and untie, Now you do it once more but this time instead of untieing you shake the knot off, this last effect will absolutely baffle everybody.

You will be able to accomplish this by following instructions. The first move is shown clearly in figs. 14-15. The right hand goes straight into the loop at point marked A. The hand is then passed behind B and over C as shown in Fig. 16. Result will be like Fig. 17. Now bring hands together, this move is important because it loosens the loops around the wrists, as shown in fig. 18 - nothing happens, and you will find that you have returned to the original position, ie, No. 14. The secret move, on which the trick depends, is shown in fig. 19, the right hand releases the end V, takes hold of it again above the loop Z at the point V-2, and throws the loops off the hands spreading the hands apart. The trick is done. There is now no doubt about it, the knot is a GENUINE ONE.

Repeat this once more, and show that you make a fair knot without letting the ends go (?). The third time you do it up to the time of your secret move; this last time do not let go of the end V. When you get to the position shown in fig. 17 pull off loop of left hand, pulling this end until the knot tightens a little, then pull off loop of right hand and pull this end, this will make a FAKE knot that resembles the genuine knot very much, and this you can DISSOLVE by pulling the ends or shaking the silk real hard.

Now you can offer to teach anyone how to do it. Start as before, making all the previous movements until you get to position shown in fig. 18. You must make all of these movements very slowly so that everyone can see that you are holding the ends of the silk all the time. You then invite someone to take the two ends from your hands, and to pull the silk off your wrists. When this is done THE TRICK IS DONE. You practically have nothing to do.

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You must not make the secret move as shown in fig. 19. You merely hold the silk in position 18 and allow someone to take the two ends of the silk, and pull it off the wrists. The effect on the spectator when he sees the knot appearing while he is holding the silk is TRULY STUNNING.

Now for the last part of this knotty problem. Hold silk as shown in fig. 20 and apparently tie the silk in a single knot. You then shake the silk and two knots appear in it. The idea is to tie two knots in one. The drawings will illustrate the method. While one hand holds the end of the silk the other hand loops the center once and again, see drawings 20, 21, 22 and 23, make the first loop smaller than the second. Result will be like drawing 24. Bring end held in left through loops and tighten (LOOSE). Showing silk as shown in fig. 25. Shake the silk hard and the two knots will appear as in 26. After this undo the knots and make one at the end of silk ready for "KING KOBRA" effect. If you do not have this last trick, order one at once, and finish this routine with the most wierd and marvelous of all the late tricks.

You tie a knot at one end of an ordinary foulard or silk scarf and afterwards you make this unprepared silk stand on end, surrounded by spectators, in the middle of the roomanywhere - at any time, just like the mythical ROPE TRICK OF INDIA. Later you squash it and throw the silk for a thorough examination. You can even do it with a borrowed silk or large handkerchief.

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