

I L L U S I O N   S E C R E T S

BY

U . F . G R A N T

C O N T E N T S

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## THE BOOK OF LIFE.

A Cabinet -- about six feet high , two feet wide and one foot deep made in the form of a book as on next page -- is shown. This has a front and rear door, also a second door made of a framework covered with paper to represent the first inside page of a book.

There is also a sliding compartment that slides from the inside of the book out a way at the bound edge of the book as shown by the dotted lines -- this compartment runs in grooves attached to the platform.

At the start, compartment is on inside of the book and platform is wheeled in on the stage and shown all around. An assistant is concealed in the book on the inside of the sliding compartment. The front door is opened. As soon as it is opened, the assistant slides the compartment out and steps into it. Next the first inside page is opened and following that the back cover

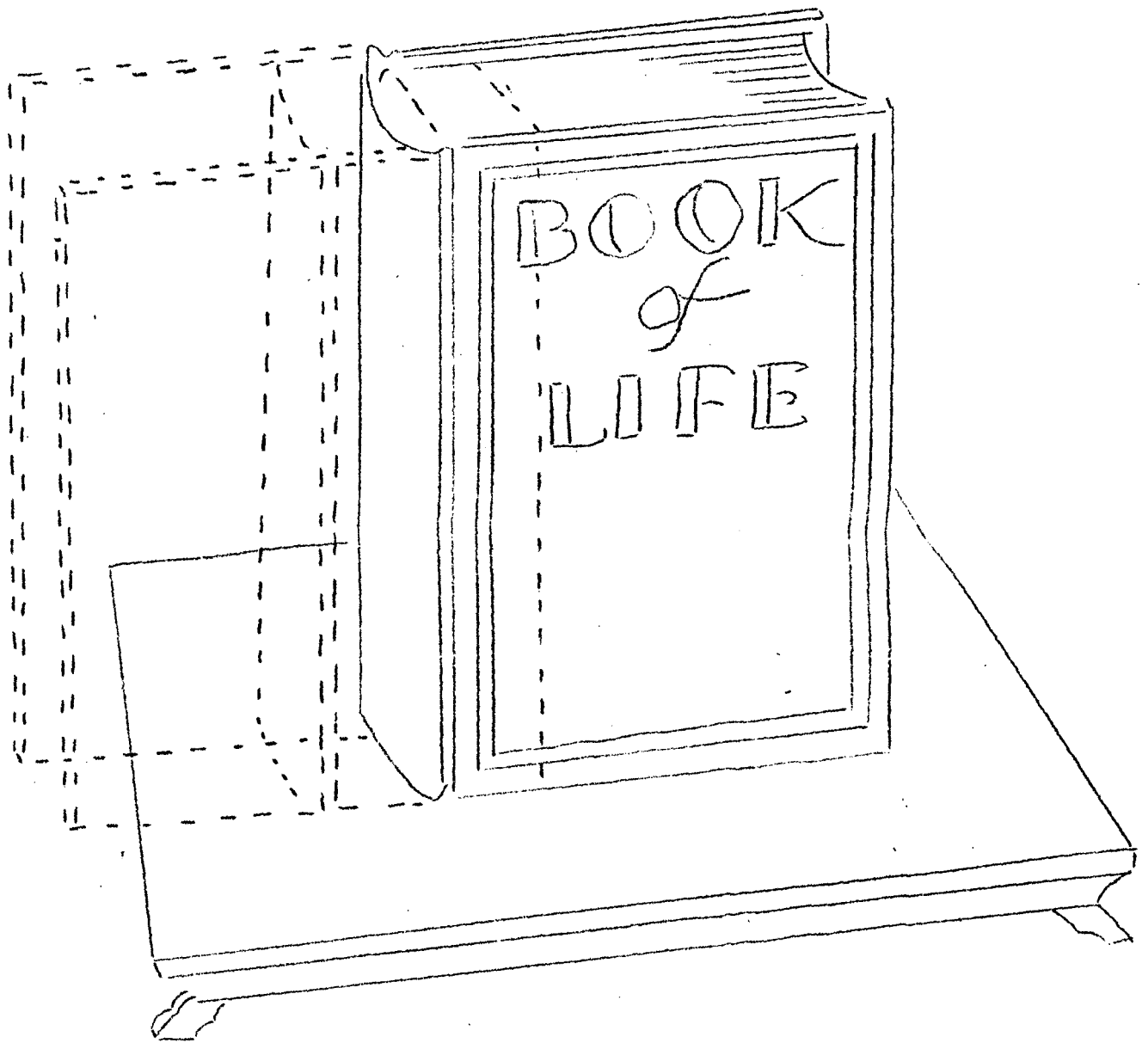
With the doors opened wide the entire platform is swung around showing all sides. Now back cover is closed, then inside page. As soon as this is closed, assistant slides compartment back into the book and steps in. Now front cover is closed.

Front cover is immediately re-opened and performer fires a shot and assistant comes tearing through paper of the first insidepage

This can be made into a very novel illusion such as having on the cover of the book "Little Red Riding Hood", then produce assistant as Little Red Riding Hood

Using the above title you can use illustrated silks to produce from the book before the girl steps forward. Each silk one of the characters of the story illustrated on it. As you punch a small hole in the paper, assistant places a silk at hole which you draw out as you tell the story and at the finish out steps Little Red Riding Hood herself.

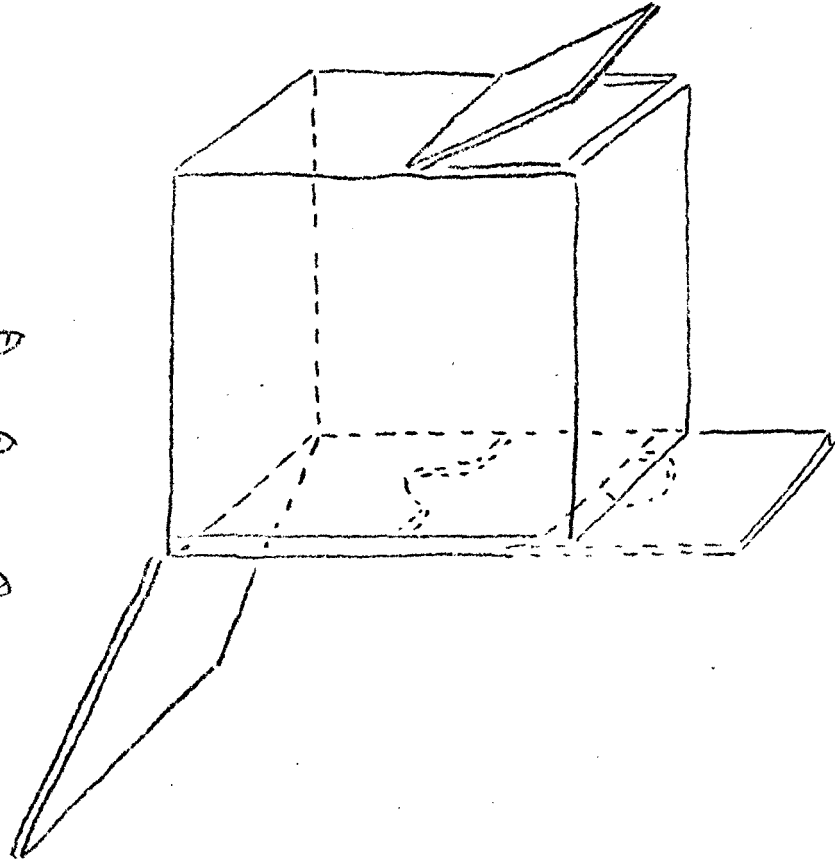
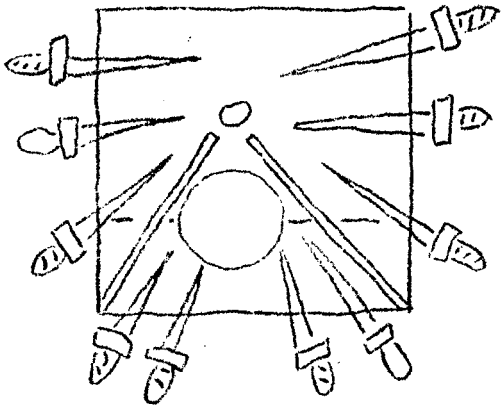
Good to introduce Magic. First few pages are of famous Magicians.



This is the club performers method of the sword Cabinet. Performer shows a small cabinet that has a neck stock at bottom. Rear half of stock is slid out and box placed over a mans head. Then neck stock is slid in holding box tightly around mans head. Box has several slits in it and in these you insert long knife blades as pictured below. Then a pole is pushed through and down the centre of the box from the top, apparently right through the centre of the mans head. Now you say you will show them the "Man who Lost His Head". A front door of the box is opened down and the mans head is seen to be missing. Just a number of swords filling the entire centre interior of the box and the pole down through the centre are seen.

Box is made deep enough so that the mans head will be a little to the rear of the box. Two mirrors hinged at the rear to the sides of the box, the backs of the mirrors are covered with the same material as inside of the box. At start these are folded up next to the sides of box. After placing the box over man's head, you open small top cover to see how he is getting along and then swing mirrors over to centre of box so they come together at the centre at a 45-degree angle. Now through the slots in box, insert long knife blades and when the pole is pushed down into top of box, the pole comes out in front of the two front edges of the mirrors hiding them perfectly.

When the front cover is opened, the mirrors hide the mans head and reflect the swords, giving the illusion that you are seeing the swords coming through the back of the box and the entire interior. This is a marvellous effect for any club performer. At the finish you close up the front, remove the pole and swords, then remove the box from the mans head.



## THE RAJAH'S TENT ILLUSION.

This will probably prove to be one of the most baffling illusions ever to be brought out. The writer made up a small one for the production of live stock, and it was uncanny how deceptive it was

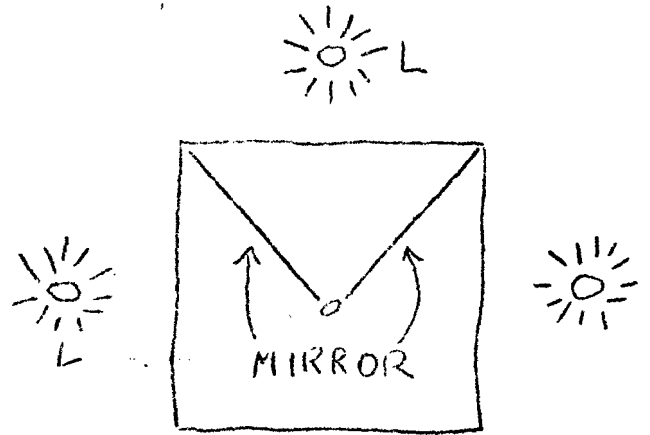
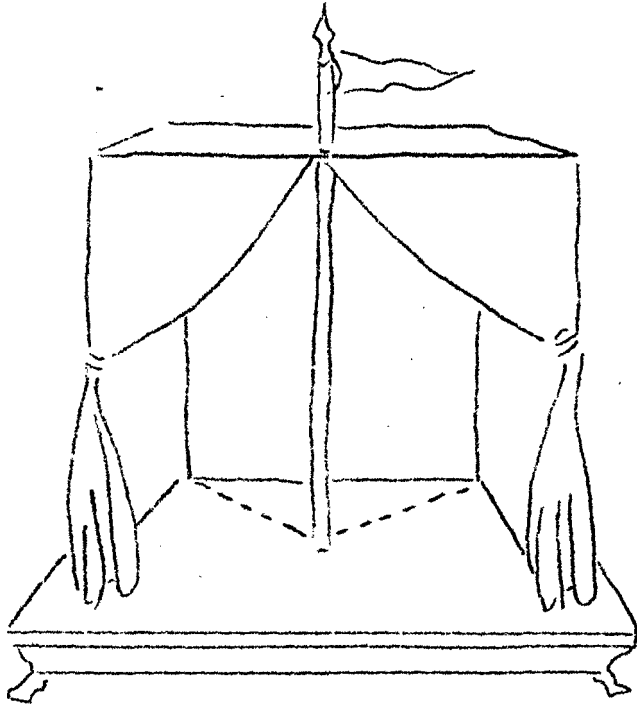
We do not give dimensions on this either as any size may be used and for one person or as many as desired. A tent (on a platform) of some light canvas material or sheeting as pictured below with a pole down through the centre with a flag on top of the pole. Two mirrors run from the centre of the pole to the rear of tent at a 45-degree angle.

The mirrors are hinged so they may fold over against the sides of the tent at the finish, the backs of the mirrors being covered with same material as tent is made of. With the mirrors in position you have assistant hidden in tent behind mirror. Cabinet is wheeled in and flaps of same opened up and interior appears empty thanks to mirrors. Now wheel tent and show same on all sides. Now to prove there are no double walls, lights are placed around same in the positions shown in the drawing and turned on and thanks to the mirrors and the way the lights are arranged the illusion will be that the entire tent is transparent and that the audience see the light in the rear as well as those on the sides.

Now all that remains is to close the flaps of the tent. Assistant then pushes the mirrors over to side of cabinet and when you open flaps of tent, there's the Queen of Sheba sitting in the tent eating a basket of grapes or what have you.

This is a marvellous illusion and we highly recommend it.

Good as the "Gypsy Fortune Tent" with Questions placed in the empty ( ? ) tent and voice answers, finally Gypsy emerges.



## THE HUMAN X -RAY

A three-fold screen about six feet high, each panel covered with a white cloth or light canvas is required. Also a small two fold screen about four feet high with cloth panels and two holes cut out and a sheet of window glass in each hole as pictured.

The entire outfit should be painted in white so as to appear as hospital equipment. Performer introduces his lady assistant stating how he will demonstrate his latest Human X-Ray. He allows a committee to step forward and examine everything used. The young lady steps into the three fold screen folded to form a three sides cabinet and the two fold screen is placed in front of her still her head and feet are visible at all times.

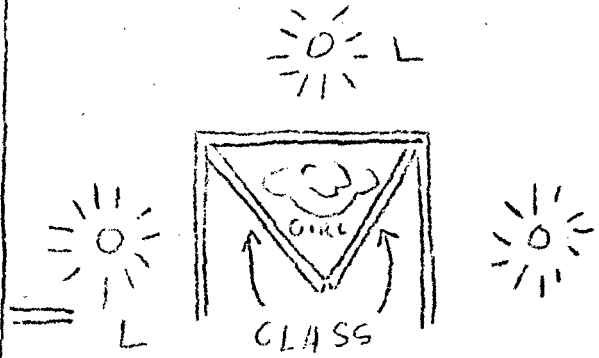
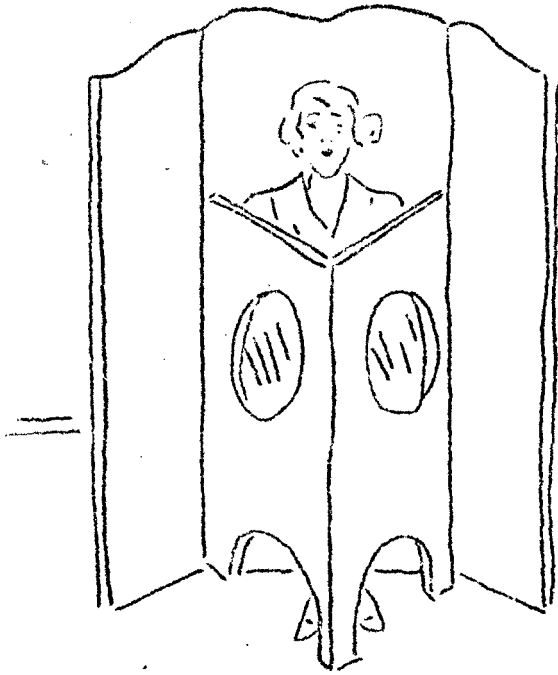
Now three lights are placed around the outside screen. These should be on standards and at least 75 watt lamps. These are all hooked to a 110 circuit along a few buzzers to make the effect more spectacular. It is also a good idea to have a fourth light over to one side, say a red one with a flasher button.

When the performer says "Watch" he turns on the lights the buzzers start and the lady's body becomes ~~invisible~~ invisible behind the glass openings of the small screen. She has on a dark dress and standing close to the glass in the screen it causes the glass to act as a mirror reflecting the two lights at each side of the large screen and audience believe they see the light behind the screen.

Performer can run one hand up and down the side of the screen at the same time the other hand up and down the back of the screen, the reflection of the hand from the side gives the audience the illusion that they are seeing his hand run up and down behind the screen.

The triple effect of the young lady's body being invisible, the buzzers and the red light at one side flashing on and off makes this a very spectatular illusion.





L = LIGHTS

This clever illusion is by Ralph White of Springfield, Mass.

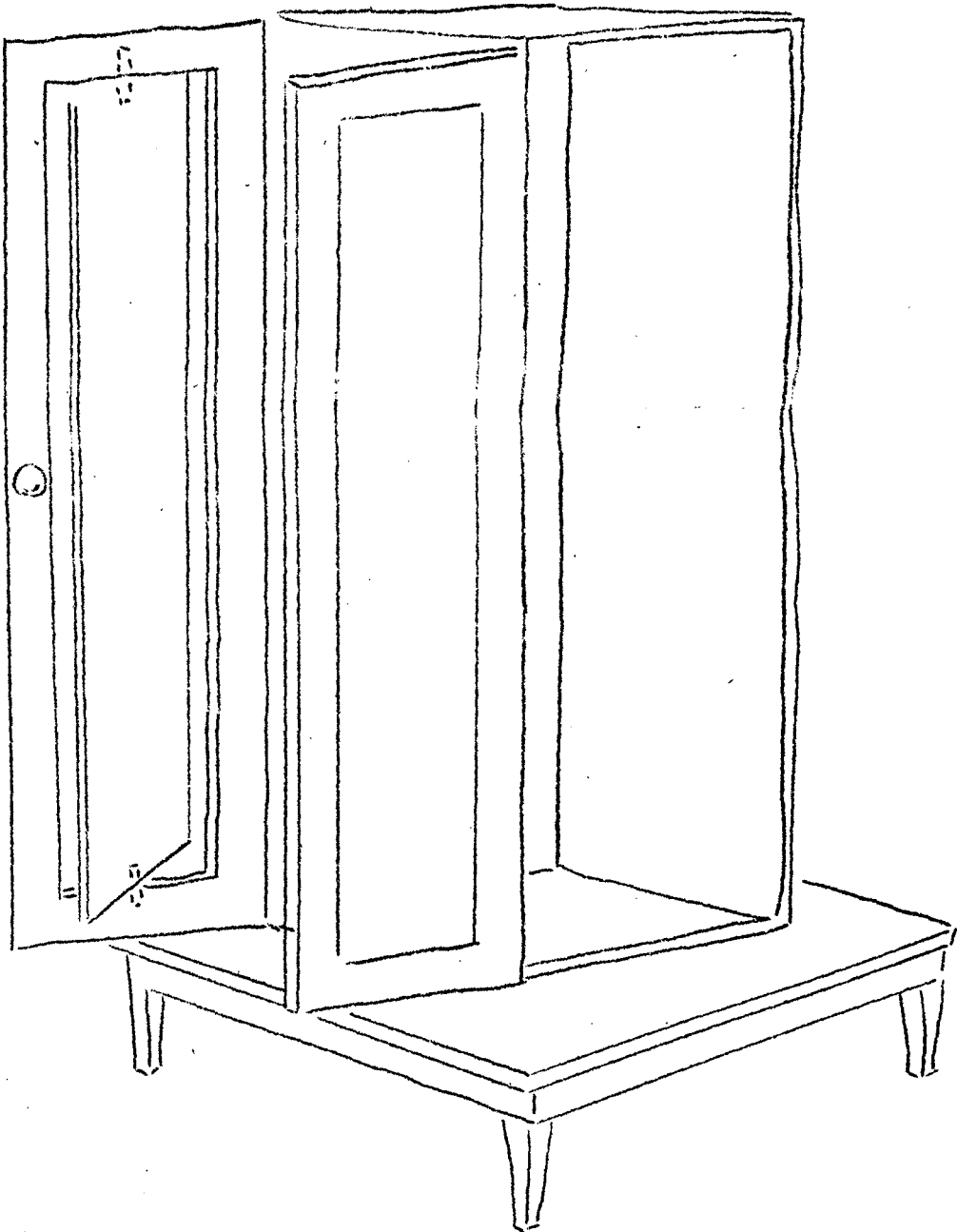
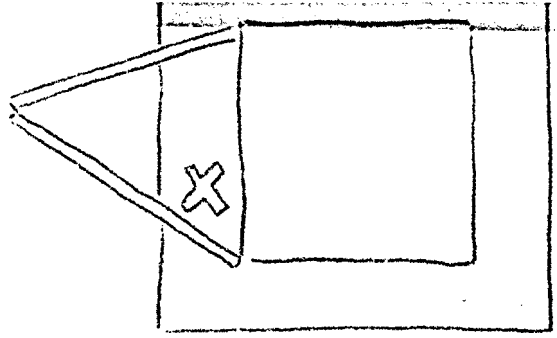
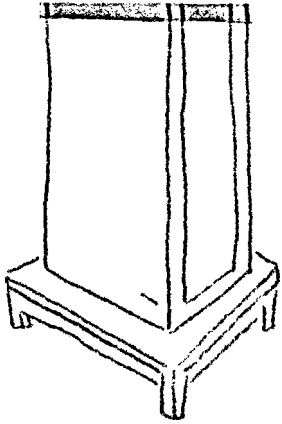
Performer wheels in a large cabinet, shows it all around opens it and shows it empty. Now he places a balloon, showing it first, on the floor of the cabinet, attaches a bicycle pump to it and blows up the balloon until it fills the entire interior of the cabinet. Then he closes the doors of the cabinet and fires at same saying he will cause the balloon to vanish. But on opening the front door of cabinet balloon is still there. In disgust he fires point blank at balloon and it bursts and standing in the centre of same is a girl.

The back door of cabinet has a fake swinging panel. At start girl is on the inside of cabinet. It is wheeled in on a platform which is a little larger than the cabinet so there is a ledge all around. Cabinet is wheeled and shown on all sides then left front facing audience, then girl goes through fake panel to back of cabinet. Front door is opened and she steps over behind front door. Then the back door is opened. Front and back doors come together as shown on next page. Girl is hidden in there and entire cabinet is again swung all around showing all sides. Back door is closed girl goes to back of cabinet.

The large balloons can be made up for you by Tony Sarg at about fifty cents each, or any balloon manufacturer will supply you with them. After balloon is blown up girl steps in through panel behind the balloon after front door is closed. Now when the performer fires at the balloon the girl pushes a pin in it at the same time pushing slightly forward and as the balloon bursts, the optical effect is that the girl is right in the centre, making the illusion a very baffling as well as novel one.

For the club performer, a large cabinet is not necessary, simply a three fold screen being placed around the balloon as you blow it up. Behind the screen is the girl. She steps through a slit in a panel of the screen. This slit does not show as the cloth panels of the screen are pleated. And the balloon does not have to be covered at any time as it is large enough to hide girl as she comes through the screen behind same.

Make this a double platform with girl in, in place of cabinet. Or have costumes on chair, they select one, girl is behind chair and skips behind balloon as it is inflated. Girl appears in selected (forced) costume.



~~This is ideal for the club performer as all you need is any two two-~~  
fold screen about six feet high. These are on the platform or  
on the floor as shown in the first sketch. Behind "A" is hidden  
a girl assistant. She is holding a large globular fish bowl full of  
water and goldfish. Hanging from her shoulders with straps are bags  
~~containing~~ containing silks, live stock, etc.

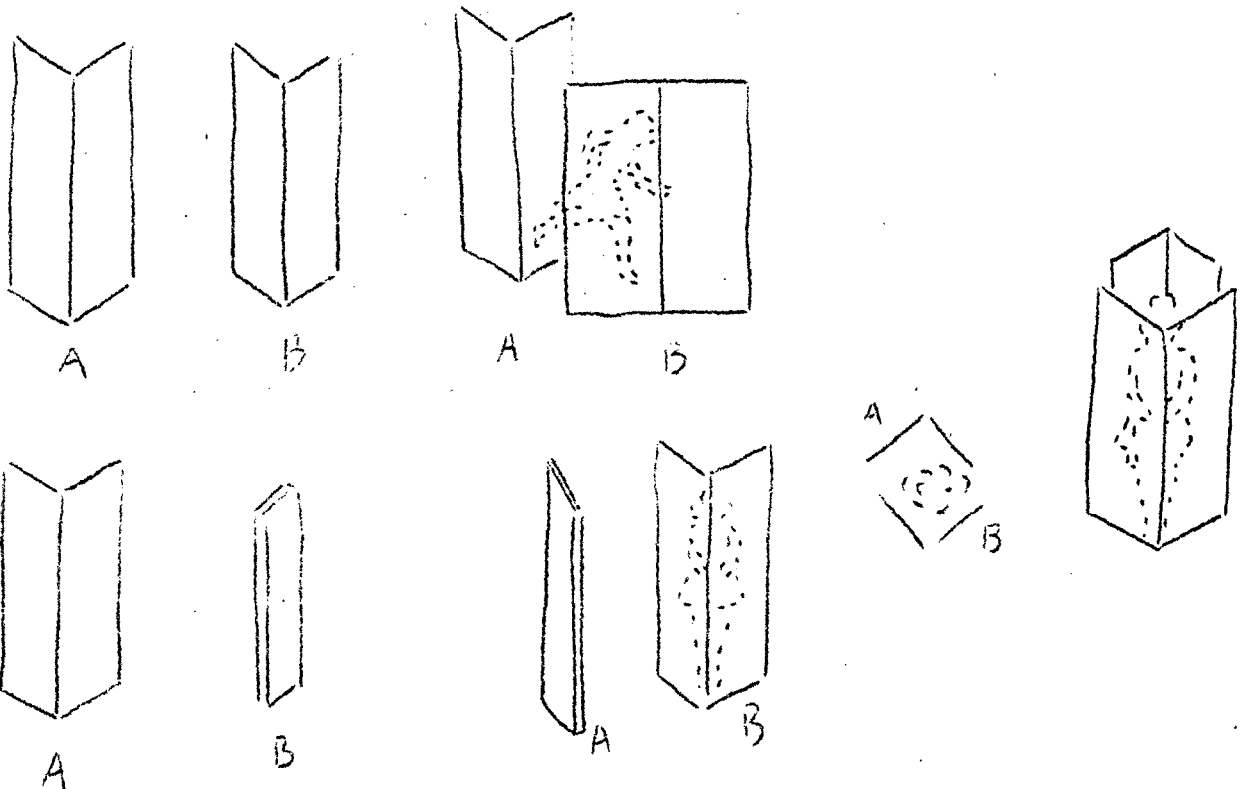
The entire secret of this effect depends on smooth well-timed moves  
therefore it should be rehearsed well before presenting it before  
an audience.

Performer picks up screen "B" and folds it flat, then opens it  
out so the edge of "B" just overlaps in front of edge of "A"  
At the same time (when "B" is in this new position) the girl  
skips from behind "A" and into "B" at the same time performer  
moves "B" slightly forward. If this is worked in a smooth natural  
manner the audience will never notice the screens come together.

Now "A" screen is picked up and folded flat and placed in back of  
"B" forming two into a square cabinet.

Performer steps up on a small stool and reaches in top of screens  
and girl secretly hands him the silks etc, that he produces from top  
of screen. Then he fires a shot and girl releases birds which fly  
up out of screens. And for the big finish, the screens are parted  
revealing the girl.

Also use it for Spook Shows to produce a Spook.




Here is a good double exchange illusion that can be worked under most any conditions and packs in a suitcase with the rest of the club performer's act.

The bag is made of any type of heavy white cloth to represent a laundry bag. It has several holes around the top edge with a cord or white tape running through the holes as shown in the sketch on the next page. Note it is necessary to have centre of the cord or tape on the inside of the bag at one end as shown in the sketch. The only other item used is a large unprepared sheet.

Have a man step up from the audience and examine the bag. Then place your girl assistant in the bag. As you start to draw up the strings of the bag, the assistant inside the bag takes hold of the cord in the centre and pulls some of it down in the bag as shown in the sketch. A few trials will show you the length of draw string to use and the amount assistant will need to draw in. Now let the committee man tie ends of cord and seal the knots, then have him return to his seat.

Now pick up the sheet and show same. Now hold the sheet up in front of yourself and the bag so audience can see your face and head. As you do assistant releases hold of the string opens mouth of bag with the aid of this slack cord steps out of bag leaving open bag on the floor. As assistant does this which only takes about two seconds -- you ask audience to time the young lady's escape. Assistant steps over under cover of the sheet and as you apparently pull sheet up in front of your face and head, assistant really does the same and moves forward with you. As she does you step into bag and pull same over your head then pull in on cord tying yourself into bag

Suddenly assistant drops sheet to the floor revealing herself and on untying the bag you are found in the bag in place of the assistant making an ideal double-exchange with a surprise as you lead the audience to believe it was only to be an escape trick.

Have cloth you hold up on a  shape stick at top. This conceals better.

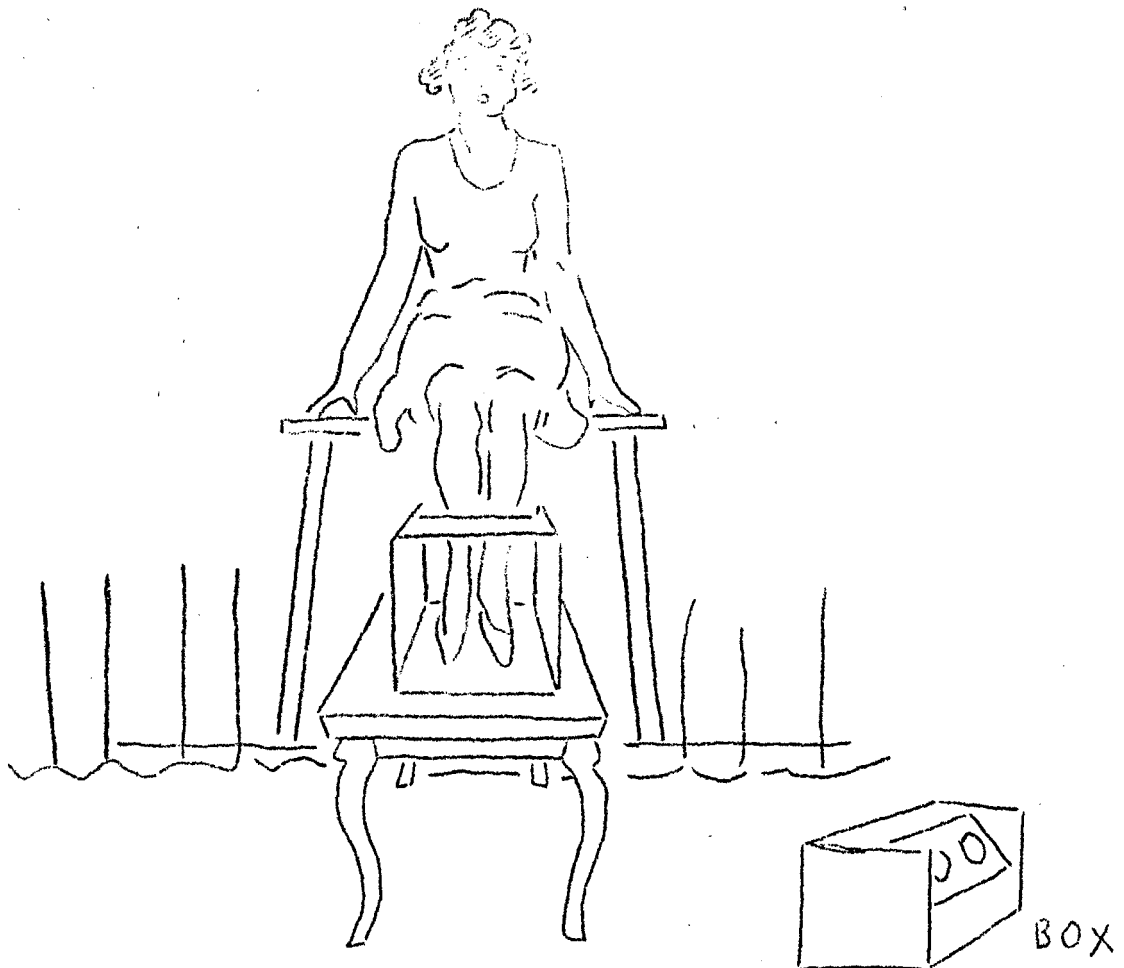


~~Two white slippers are shown and placed in a small open front cabinet and the music starts to play a tap dance. The two slippers come to life and do a regular tap dance keeping time with the music~~

A small cabinet on the table next to the backdrop with two holes in rear of box as pictured. Inside of box is covered with black velvet. Behind drop on a step ladder is assistant with her feet through two holes in drop and into the box. She has on black stockings which will not show in black-lined box giving a regular black-art effect.

Now all that remains are two slippers that will fir the girl painted white with black on the inside. As you place the slippers in the box, the girl slips her feet into them and at the proper time starts to dance. Owing to the black-art effect just the slippers show, making the stunt very effective.

You can also have the shoes tap out questions etc. Have girl behind screen with black stockings on hands. She puts hands through into shoes. This is better.



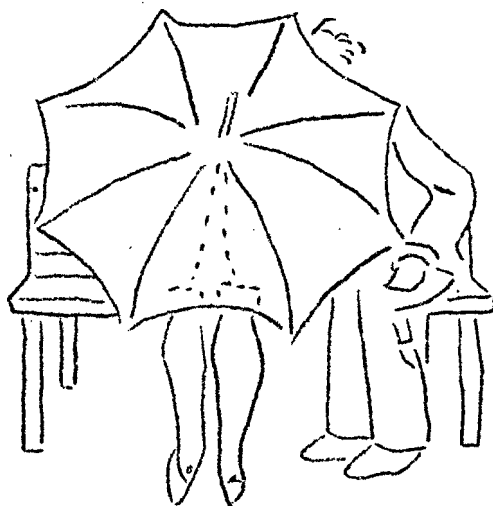
~~This is a very novel and easy-to-do illusion. The effect is that,~~  
as the curtain rises, a fellow and a girl are seen to be spooning  
on a park bench behind an umbrella. Magician enters with an  
officer's hat on and notes the two on bench. Right beside bench  
is a sign "No Spooning" so performer goes over to bench and  
snatches the umbrella away. As he does the girl vanishes and only  
the lone fellow is sitting on the bench.

All that is required is any bench and two false feet with legs  
which can be borrowed or purchased from almost any department  
store. These are on the floor in front of the bench with a cord  
running from their tops to the handle of the umbrella as pictured  
below.

A man assistant sits on bench beside these holding the umbrella.  
After curtain goes up he moves the umbrella a little back and forth  
as if two persons were behind same, then takes one of his hands and  
twists it back over his own neck so it appears as if a girl has her  
arm around his neck. This can be seen from one side of the umbrella.  
He also shifts the fake legs a little so it will appear as if  
girl moved a little closer to her boy friend etc.

Now when magician pulls the umbrella away he rather scoops the  
fake legs into same, the cord attached to them swings them down into  
the umbrella which is held as pictured below.

You will find this a very novel and entertaining illusion and one  
that is inexpensive. All you have to carry is a fake pair of legs  
and an umbrella. Cord to umbrella is not necessary. Man merely  
picks up legs and drops them in umbrella. Better.





## WITCH'S BROOM AND ROPE ILLUSION

In this effective semi-illusion, the performer ties his girl assistant to the handle of a broom from head to foot, then pulls the rope right through the broom and the girl.

Another variation is to use white tape in place of rope wrapping the girl to the broom in a sort of "Mummy" fashion, then to pull the tape right through the broom and the girl.

Performer introduces his assistant or used anyone from the audience. He stands a broom against assistant's back and this broom unknown to audience has a small loose peg in same near the centre of the handle. Now performer takes a long single length of rope and starts winding it around the girl and the broom starting at the legs as in the drawing with the centre of the rope at the rear.

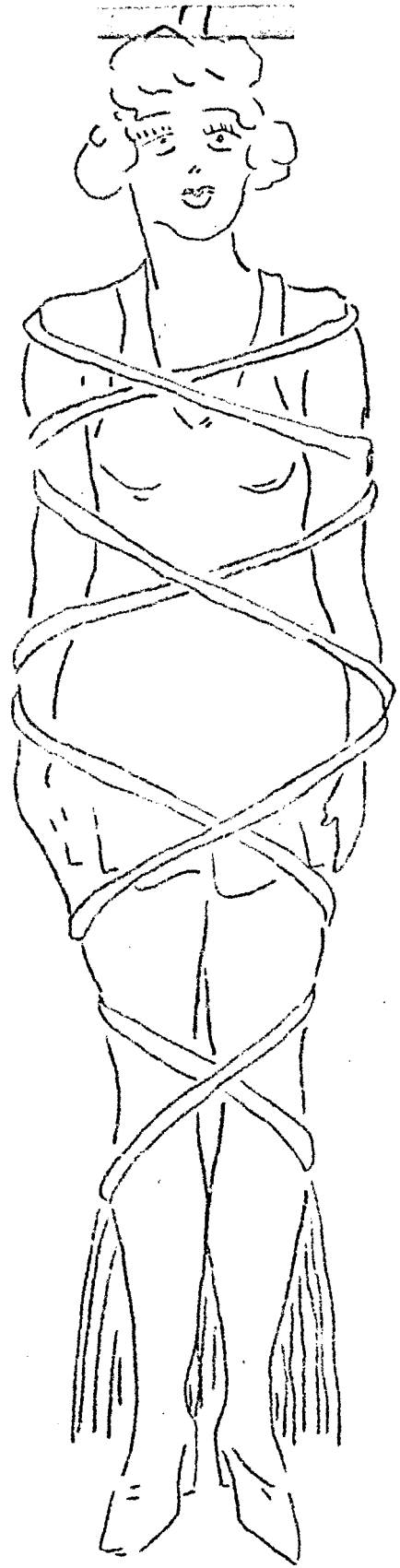
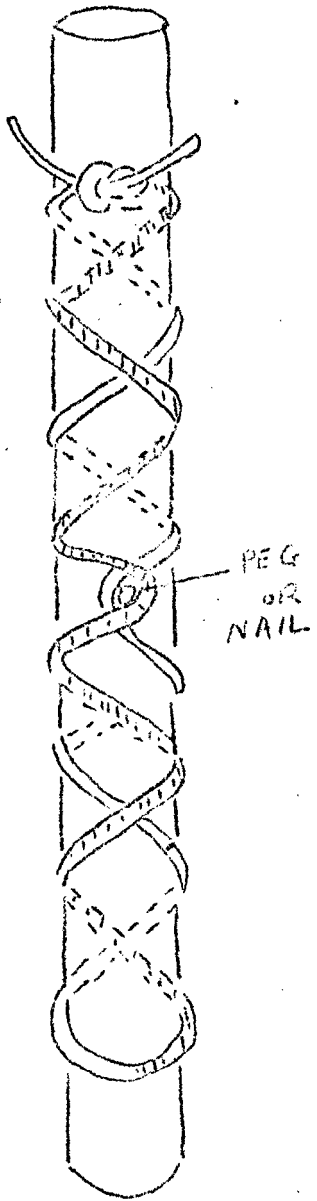
The enlarged drawing of the rope and broom handle show you exactly how the rope is wound around the broom and the girl. The large drawing of the girl shows how it appears to the audience. In the detailed drawing one half of the rope is shown in a lined tone. This half of the rope we call the TOP HALF. This top half has to be kept on top of the other rope in all cross overs to make the trick work. Also note the number of turns in the drawings. This shows the exact number of times the rope is wound around the person and the broom.

When you come to the peg cross the rope back as shown in the drawing and continue to keep the same of the rope on top on all cross overs. Also note there are ~~xxxxxxx~~ the same number of cross overs above the nail as below. This is absolutely necessary to make the trick work. At the finish, when the rope is at the top and rear, tie the two ends together firmly.

Swing girl and broom sideways. As you do, secretly pull out the peg but hand stays there holding the looped rope in position. Other hand takes rope at tied ends and just as it starts to pull the rope other hand lets go of centre loop in back and the rope will pull right through the girl and broom.

By following the drawings closely and a few rehearsals, you will be able to do the tying in a good snappy-appearing manner.

In place of pin, girl's hands are around back of broom. She holds ropes at turn back centre position.



Effect. The usual sawing a lady in half, except the box is unprepared. Can be worked anywhere with any woman.

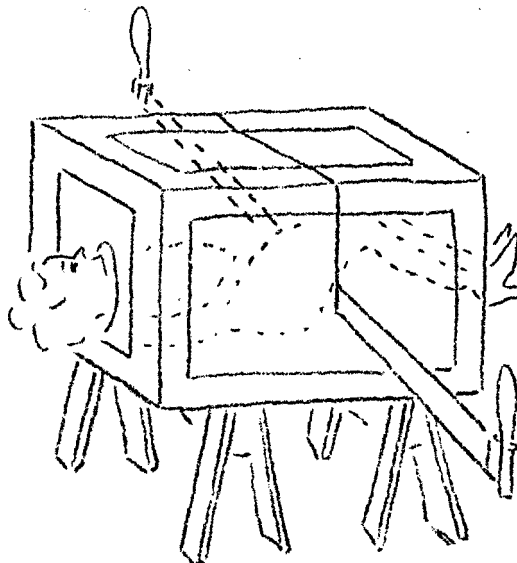
Secret. A common Packing case can be used with hole cut at one end for her feet and a hole at the other end for her head. The saw to be used is one of the long narrow type -- not a wide blade.

In working the trick, the lady is laid in the box with her feet sticking out one end and her head the other. Then the sawing proceeds. When the saw reaches the middle of the box, performer pretends to overhear some one say they are fake feet, etc. so box is swung around feet facing audience and lady wiggles her toes etc. Now box is swung around so her head faces audience and she talks, smiles, moves eyelids. While this is going on she pulls in her feet, in and under, then over the saw and out through the holes again. This saw is now under her as pictured below.

Once more the box is swung around so feet and head are both visible and the sawing continues until saw is passed right through the box and drops to the floor. And the young lady is unharmed.

A regular packing case is ideal as it does not need to be too long and should be high enough for the girl to have space to bring her legs back and over the saw. After getting a packing from any merchant nail the bottom of same to two saw horses so as to have space in the centre for the saw to drop through and down to the floor.

This is by far the most simple, most practical and most baffling method for sawing a woman in half that has ever been thought out Good now with a card board packing case box and big knife.



This is the latest and most sensational method of sawing a woman in half. The effect is a young lady is introduced and placed on a plank and a buzz saw is seen to pass through her body in full view of the audience.

The girl who endures this ordeal, unknown to the audience has a special corset on. This is constructed of metal with ~~metal straps~~ wide leather straps as pictured on the next page. At the rear it has an inner and outer wall ( note dotted lines show inner wall which fits down the curve of girl's back -- the slot also a little wider than shown in the drawing ) Now if the girl places this corset affair on and draws the belts up tightly it bends her back in and stomach out, but belts hold stomach in. There is a space of about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches between the inner and outer wall of corset at the slot.

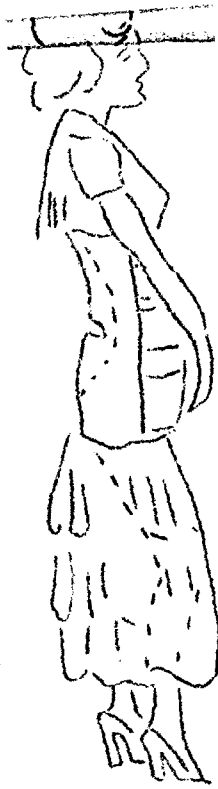
Over the slot a piece of heavy cardboard is fastened and curled around and over this is glued a piece of ribbon. Over this girl wears a loose fitting dress, dress is open at section where the slot is, then ribbon to match that glued on corset is on outside of dress from sides around to front, so the one glued on corset will appear as same ribbon running all around the girl.

Any portable type of rigging may be used to place a plank on and girl lies on the plank as shown. Now have a small motor built on a skeleton framework with two arms out and the saw blade attached to the arm with belt running back to motor. The saw blade should be about eight inches in diameter and this is set so that it will go four inches into the girls corset. This gives clearance of half an inch.

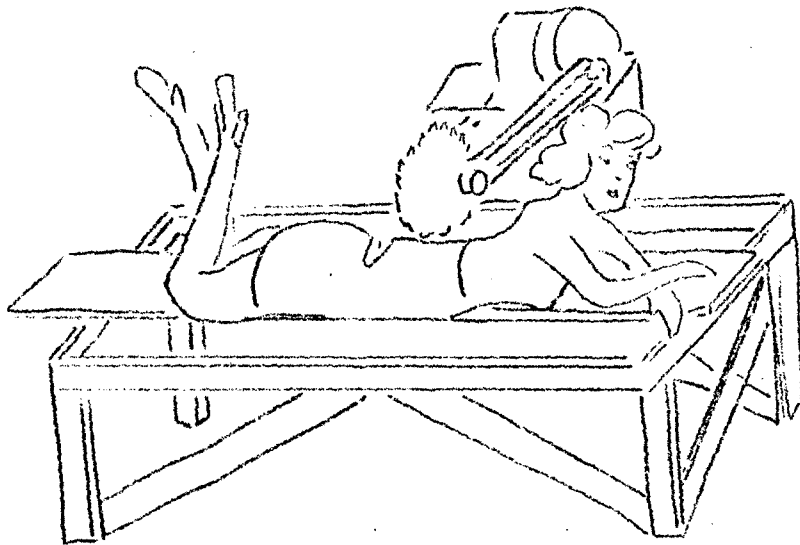
The saw and motor uprights are on a track affair, so they can be pushed slowly forward and right through the girl. The noise of the saw going through the heavy cardboard on corset and ripping the ribbon glued to it makes the effect very startling and realistic

This is an illusion that can be made small and portable and create a sensation for any type of program or outdoor attraction.

Also gimmick can be so girl lays on back and sinks in couch etc.



CORSET



~~This can be made up to produce four or more persons, still the apparatus packs small and is very light. Or it can be made for the production of one person only.~~

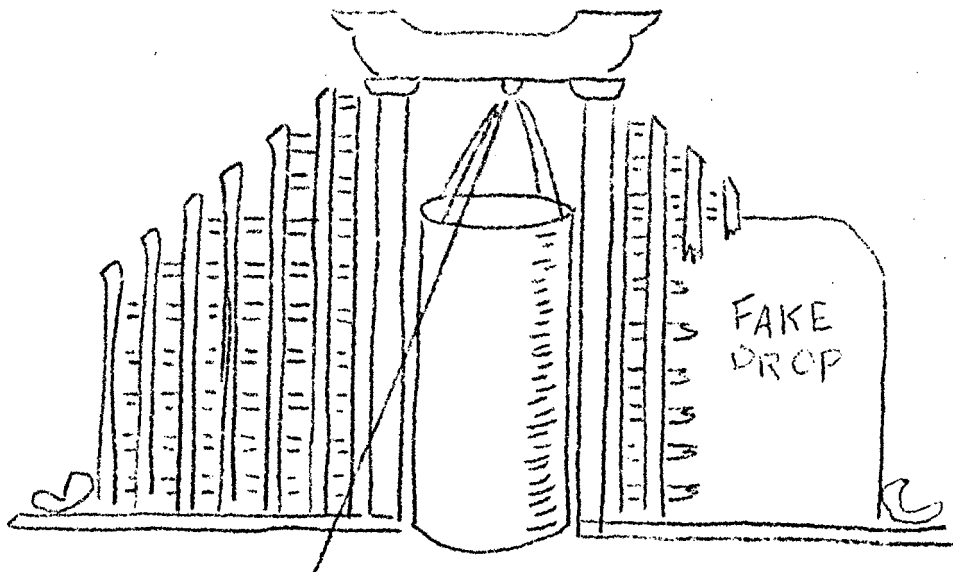
Performer wheels in a platform with an archway upon it. Each side of the archway is a fancy lattice work with a few flowers upon it. In other words it is a regular gateway to a garden as pictured below. In the centre flat on the floor is a bag arrangement so when a ribbon is pulled, the bag is pulled up forming a cabinet. Bag at the rear has a long slit in it.

Right side of lattice work behind same, three quarters of the way is a fake back drop, that is cloth material same color as the back drop so that anyone may be behind this or several persons still it will appear to audience that they are seeing right through same.

In presenting same performer steps behind left side so they can see right through lattice work and stands in archway with his hands up behind the lattice work at each side and they see his hands behind the lattice work. This again shows they are transparent without calling attention to the fact.

Now all that remains is to pull bag up. As soon as you do, a concealed assistant sneaks into slit at rear of bag. Then you drop bag and there's a person. This is repeated until you produce as many as desired. Can also be used for the exchange of persons. Place a man in there and he is changed to a girl. etc.

With two men of the same build you can work a beautiful change act with this outfit. For that matter this outfit is suitable for almost any type of effect you may want to work up either small or large. For special shows use crepe paper, back drop and crepe paper fake drop.



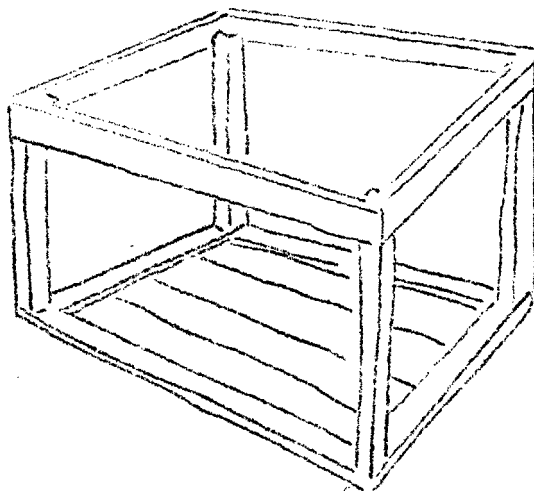
## THE BEST PACKING-BOX ESCAPE

This is the method that was used by Henry Jacques former escape artist and Magician. A method used by him for years and found to be the most practical for all-round occasions. It is best to have a blueprint made up and several copies made showing the dimensions desired and the method of construction same. These are sent ahead to the theatre manager and he turns the print over to a local concern to build the box. When you arrive, the local concern furnishes the box and you escape from it. A lot of publicity and no expense.

The box may be any size desired. First a framework is made as pictured below. Then boards are screwed to this framework all around same except where the top is left open. Boards are screwed on with long screws of the correct length for thickness of boards and framework. After box is delivered and before the show you remove the long screws from two of the boards and ~~replace~~ replace with screws just long enough to hold the boards in place.

Now the committee screws the cover on the box with you on the inside. When box is covered you take a small pinch bar which you have concealed on your person and pry off the two boards with the short screws in. Get out of the box and rescrew the boards back into place with the regular long screws. Then step out of the cabinet a free man.

Now at the finish, the box will again stand a thorough examination and the builders may take the box back and study it over as much as they wish and will never find out just how you made your marvellous escape.



This works on practically the same principle as Selbit's Cane Illusion but is more spectacular with the lighted electric light bulbs

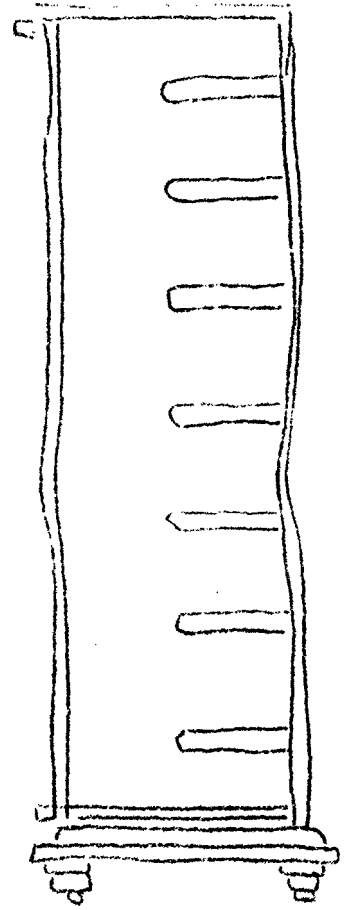
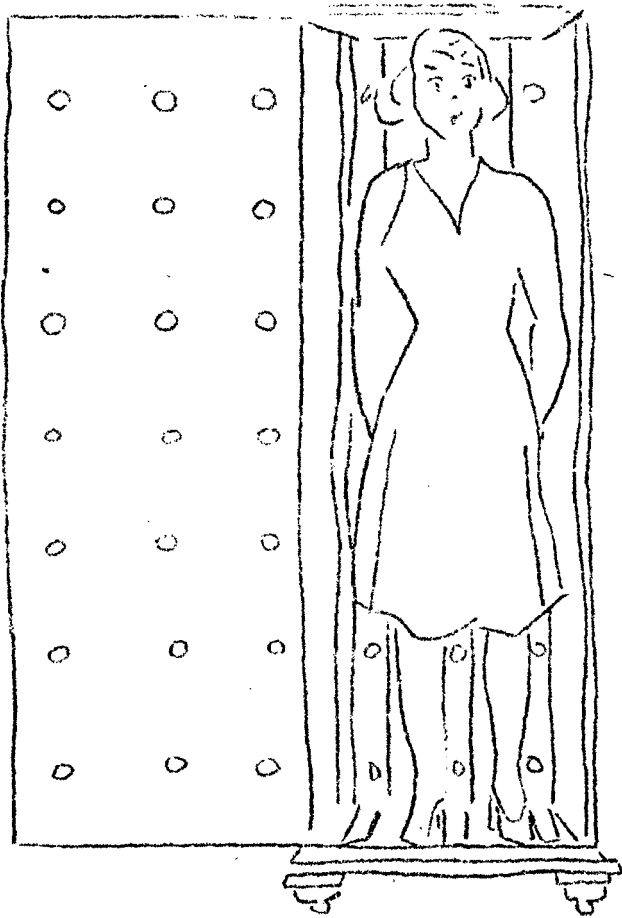
Cabinet is made of the correct size for your assistant to just stand in comfortably, with twenty-one holes in the cover as illustrated. Now on a skeleton framework mount twenty-one light bulbs, the long narrow type, which are used in show cases. These are all wired together with a line going through to a 110-volt circuit. This is placed in the box and a pully run from same to the front of box to a handle on the outside of the cabinet.

A committee steps on stage and examines everything used. Now assistant steps into cabinet and front door is closed and locked. The hand on the outside of cabinet is slowly turned bringing tiers of light bulbs forward until they come right through the corresponding holes through the cover of the cabinet.

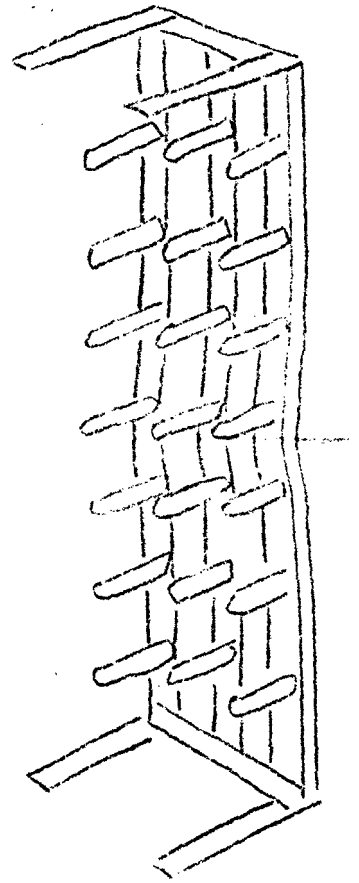
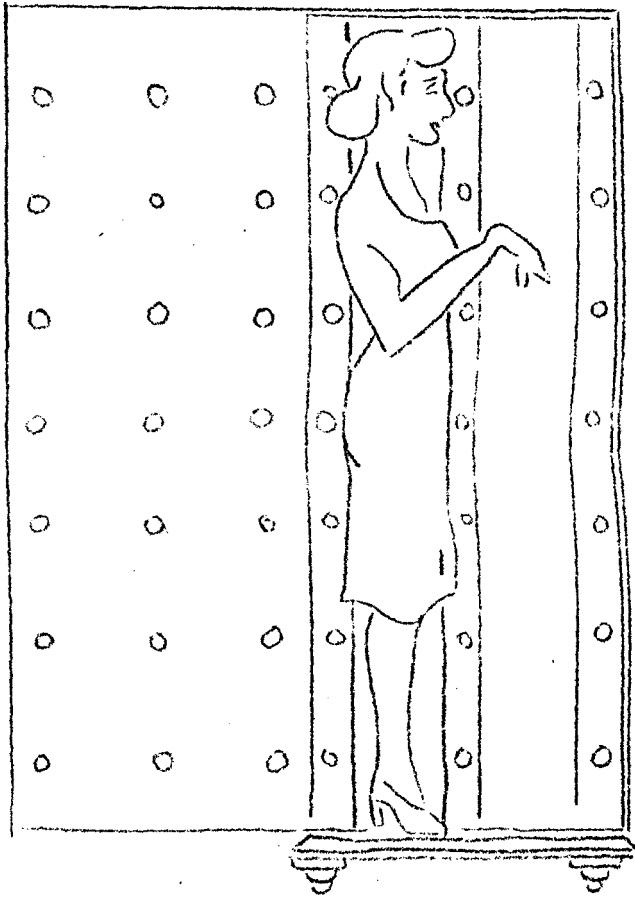
In other words, the bulbs apparently pass right through the girls body. But after door is closed all she does is turn sideways and the bulbs go right by her and out through the front. After this the bulbs are run back again and once more front door is opened and there's the girl as in the first sketch.

For addition use spikes for Spikes Through Girl.

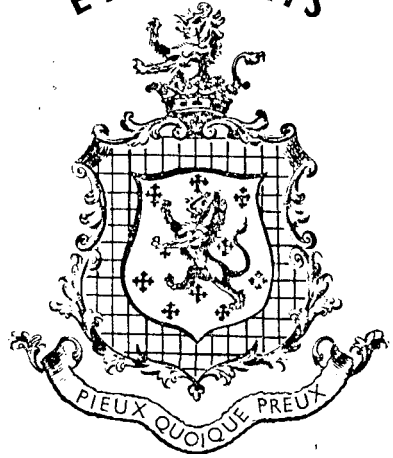




(OVER)



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