

# LIGHTED CIGARETTES ACT



By  
Don Greenwood

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Abbott's Magic Novelty Company

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## INTRODUCTION

I have used this routine for three years in theatres and night clubs and it has always been well received. Anyone may successfully perform it, provided he spends enough time in rehearsing the moves so that the various productions become a continuous appearance of cigarette after cigarette.

Bear in mind one thing; this routine should be presented SLOWLY and each appearance of a cigarette should be emphasized by proper showmanship. Another point of emphasis should be placed on each cigarette as it is thrown into the bowl.

Be sure to use a musical background and always work in bright light, as any cigarette routine is spoiled by colored lights.

The timing of the productions is very important and the magician should be sure that each cigarette is seen by every spectator before it is tossed away. Showmanship is enhanced by the correct mental attitude of the performer in presenting any trick or routine. The magician must convince himself that he is actually plucking lighted cigarettes from the air and not stealing them from various parts of his body and then bringing them to view by manipulations.

Conscientious and continual rehearsal will make the steals as natural as breathing and enable the manipulator to concentrate on selling his effect.

Don Greenwood.

## CIGARETTE ROUTINE

The gimmicks for this routine consist of two holders that hold two dummy cigarettes each and one holder for four. Thus the performer may produce nine cigarettes with only three steals which simplifies the technical work. Use imported dummy cigarettes. These can be secured from Abbott's Magic Novelty Company. If these are properly handled, even a magician in the audience will be unable to tell the difference between the dummies and the burning cigarette which provides the smoke. Each dummy should be stuffed tightly with pieces of paper napkin to make it heavier and to prevent it from bouncing out of the bowl. I might suggest one point of showmanship: should a dummy accidentally fall to the floor the performer should quickly step on it as though to extinguish it and appear to be disturbed about the possibility of a fire. It's little points like these that help to sell a trick!

The gimmicks are attached to the vest by safety pins. One of the holders for two dummies is fastened to the vest on the left side so the top edge is even with the opening of the vest pocket and the gimmick just to the rear of the pocket. Above this, level with and just ahead of the left armpit, is pinned the holder for four and on the right side in the corresponding position is fastened the second holder for two. Thus the gimmicks are effectively concealed by the coat but are easily "get-at-able". The little pin and elastic arrangement for the cigar is pinned to the inside of coat so that the cigar rests on the hip between the left rear hip pocket and side pocket of trousers. The cigar hangs so it's "lighted" end is about three-fourths of an inch from bottom edge of coat.

The gimmicks are loaded with the proper number of dummy cigarettes with their "lighted" ends down. Cigarette case (filled) is in lower right vest pocket and a cigarette lighter in lower left vest pocket. Have a bowl (or ice bucket) six or seven inches high and about six inches in diameter on table which is on your left.

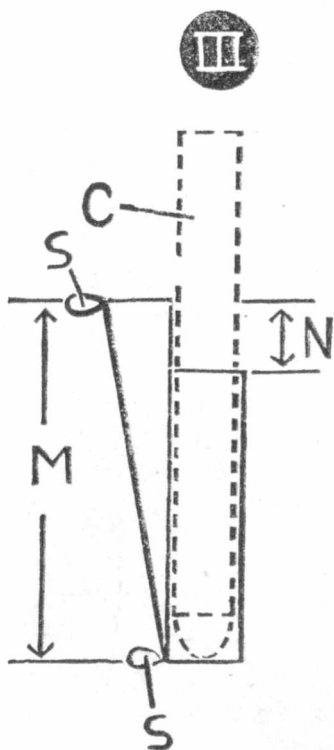
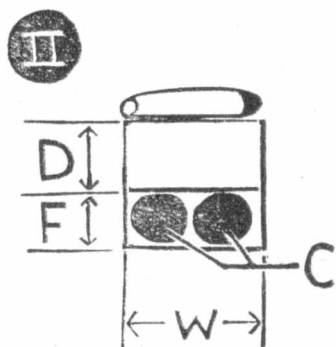
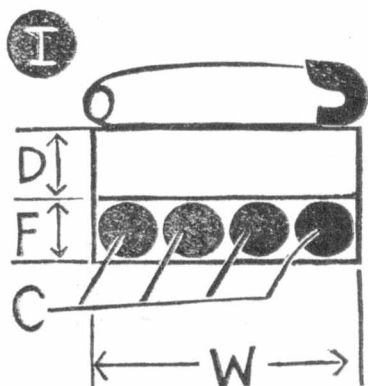
The cigarette to provide smoke for the routine should be tightly packed. I get fine results by using "Between The Acts" little cigars and covering them with white cigarette papers. (The kind known as "Target" has gummed edges). Thus prepared they have the exact appearance of a regular cigarette and provide heavier smoke, burn more evenly and do not bend during manipulation.

## PRESENTATION AND ROUTINE

Face the audience squarely, remove cigarette case from pocket, take out cigarette and replace case. Cigarette is placed between lips. Do manipulations here if desired but I don't bother with them. Secure lighter and light cigarette. Replace lighter with right hand and secure the first load, from gimmie near lower vest pocket, in thumb palm position. Take your time about this. The gimmies are so constructed as to prevent fumbling. Stand facing audience at this point then casually make a quarter turn to the left. Puff on cigarette two or three times then draw in a mouthful of smoke (do not inhale). At same time remove cigarette with just two fingers of left hand. Keep in view all the time.

Apparently see something in the air and reach out with right hand and produce one of the thumb-palmed dummies. Look at it in puzzled fashion then place it to lips and release smoke in mouth with two or three short puffs then throw it into bowl with right hand. Place burning cigarette to lips again and puff lightly. As you do this casually brush right fingers over left palm lightly two or three times, in the characteristic gesture to indicate that both hands are empty. Do this in a casual manner.

Now as right hand approaches cigarette between lips, the remaining dummy is released from thumb-palm position and clipped in an easy finger-palm so as to leave the thumb-crotch free. Cigarette is removed from lips and apparently thrown into bowl. Actually it is thumb-palmed and the dummy released, so that the dummy goes into the bowl. Most



Top Views.

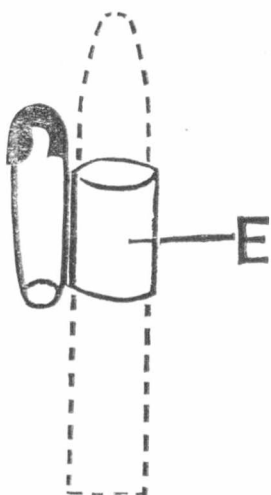
End View.

Fig. I Feke for 4 cigarettes, (top view).  $D - \frac{33}{32}$  inch,  $F - 5 \frac{1}{16}$  in.,  $W - 1 \frac{3}{8}$  in. C indicates the four cigarettes.

Fig. II Feke for 2 cigarettes, (top view).  $D - \frac{33}{32}$  in.,  $F - 5 \frac{1}{16}$  in.,  $W - \frac{5}{8}$  in. C - cigarettes.

Fig. III End view of either feke.  $M - 1 \frac{7}{8}$  in.,  $N - \frac{33}{32}$  in. S - safety pin. C - cigarette.

Clip For Cigar.

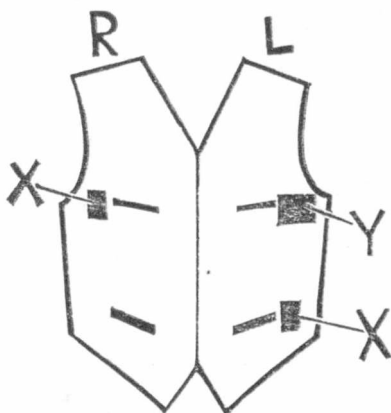


Cigar.



Clip is made with  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch black elastic (E), and black safety pin. Position of cigar in clip is indicated by dotted lines.

Note the  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch hole in end of cigar (H in drawing at the right). Cork is covered with red foil paper and plugged into hole (H) to produce "light".



Showing Loading On Vest.

R - right side.

L - left side.

X - feke for 2 cigarettes.

Y - feke for 4 cigarettes.

cigarette manipulators are familiar with this switch so it should need no further description.

Now look around as though trying to locate another cigarette. Take five or six steps to the left, passing in front of table, and reach up with right hand to produce the thumb-palmed cigarette. During this the left arm is bent so that the left hand is over front part of body about waist high. As right hand produces the burning cigarette, left hand goes under coat and quickly thumb-palms the load out of the gimmie near right armpit, then returns to its previous position. As soon as both moves are completed (they should be simultaneous) the performer faces front and puffs on the cigarette just produced. Now produce one of the dummies (in left hand) from right elbow. As this is done the right hand removes cigarette from lips and the performer secures mouthful of smoke at the same time. He places the dummy to his lips and releases the smoke in two or three short puffs. Now repeat the opening moves again as they are the same though you are in a reversed position, that is, your left hand does the secret moves and you are on left side of table with your left side to the audience.

As soon as the left hand has the burning cigarette thumb-palmed, walk forward, passing in front of table again to a position five or six feet to the right of table; and as left hand produces the burning cigarette again the right hand steals the load of four dummies.

Face audience a moment as you take a puff on cigarette, then casually turn so right side is to audience. Left hand now takes the lighted cigarette from lips between third and little fingers and performer secures another mouthful of smoke. Get all the smoke you can. Cigarette is held in left hand in full view, arm raised, slightly bent, with palm toward audience. All the fingers are slightly curled. Now three of the dummies in right are produced, one at a time, and as each is produced it is placed to lips and a small bit of smoke is released. Then they are placed between the remaining fingers of left hand, and the performer displays four cigarettes in left hand.



Performer still has a palmed cigarette in right hand. Remove lighted cigarette and apparently throw it into the bowl. Really make the switch and retain the lighted one in the right thumb-crotch. Now throw the three dummies into bowl one at a time with right hand, and as soon as left hand is empty it drops to side.

Right hand now produces the lighted cigarette again. At the same time left hand steals cigar. Puff on cigarette and get a big mouthful of smoke. Throw the burning cigarette into bowl. Then make a catching motion with left hand and show cigar, place to lips and release smoke in two or three short puffs, which are more effective than one big one. Be sure to display the cigar well so the audience can see it and know that you have reached the climax of the trick.

This cigar production is bold but therein lies its effectiveness. It gives an excellent trick the final punch!

NOTE: Enter smoking a cigarette and as you pass the table, casually toss cigarette into the bowl. Have a wire screen in bottom of bowl so that circulation of air keeps cigarette burning. Audience forgets about first cigarette and when you start throwing "lighted" cigarettes into the bowl, they see smoke rising from it and the illusion is perfect.

## A SURPRISE FINISH

Here is a really new and unusual finish for the cigarette routine. After the magician produces a number of cigarettes he reaches into the air and produces a banana which he peels and eats as he goes off-stage.

The method is exactly that of the cigar production. However, the elastic loop is larger and made adjustable to the diameter of the banana. The gimmick is pinned to the coat in the same manner as that for the cigar and the banana is produced the same way. As right hand throws cigarette away, left hand steals banana and then makes a clutching



Right hand with cigarettes in thumb-palm position.



Left hand, as cigarettes are displayed between fingers at finish of routine just before production of cigar. At this point, one dummy is still palmed in the right hand.

motion and displays the fruit. Performer expresses surprise, then deliberately peels banana (exaggerate this a trifle) and starts to eat it as he makes his exit. This is really a new idea as a finish for a series of cigarette productions. The banana should be as straight as possible and not too ripe.

Devote time to this routine, learn to do it smoothly, take your time, sell it the best you can, and you'll be pleased with the results. I know!

Don Greenwood.

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