

WIZARDRY  
WITH  
WATCHES

by

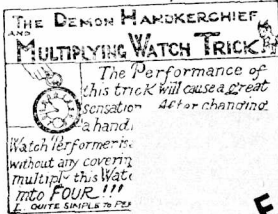
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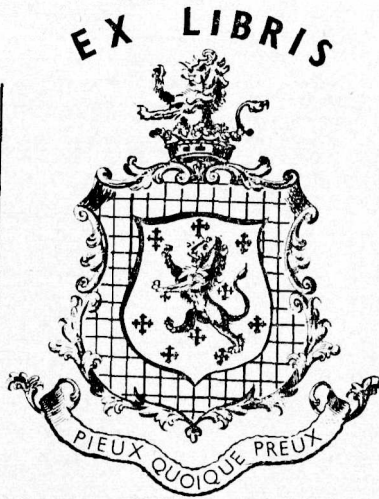
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WIZARDRY  
WITH  
WATCHES

by

OSWALD RAE

(Author of "Between Ourselves," "Practical Patter," etc.)

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## FOREWORD.

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Watches have always played a certain part in Magic, but the watch was usually a borrowed one.

The excellent "prop" watches now on the market, manufactured of course exclusively for conjuring purposes, open up almost a new era in watch magic.\*

Having acquired some of these, I endeavoured to work out some effects therewith, and thinking that some of my ideas may be of service to my fellow magicians, I have put them into print. With the exception of those described under "Some Suggestions" all the effects have been actually worked, and the various stands described are easily manufactured.

It is my hope that the ideas and suggestions herein will aid the reader into evolving some further individual ideas of his own, and thus bring that originality into our art that is essential to our progress.

Spencers Wood,  
Reading,

OSWALD RAE.

\* These prop watches, which were introduced by L. DAVENPORT & CO., 15 NEW OXFORD ST., W.C. 1, can be procured from all up-to-date dealers.

## Watch Production Stand.

The production of a quantity of watches is certainly an excellent idea, but to produce these one by one and place them in a hat, as suggested by the instructions given with the sets of watches now on the market, is certainly not so effective as in the case of the Aerial Treasury, as one of the principal points of misdirection—sound—must be dispensed with, for obviously real watches could not be dropped with impunity on to a saucer or similar object at the bottom of a hat, without doing some damage to the watch. The stand described herein is designed to place the watches on as they are produced, and also is the secret source of supply of these same watches.

The stand is made of thin wood, and has a strut at the back to enable it to stand up, but this strut is so designed that it does not interfere with the concealment of the watches, which are actually at the back.

The stand is about 18 inches by 4 inches, and has a ledge along the front on to which the watches may be placed.

Along the back is a piece of black elastic about one inch wide; it is slightly taut and kept in position by drawing pins.

The watches may be easily inserted and withdrawn from the elastic, but a drawing pin must be placed between each watch, to insure they do not slip from their temporary position. Spaces are thus made for the insertion of 6 watches at the back of the stand.

The sets of watches consist of one watch with a fake attachment to enable the watch to be fixed to the back of the finger, one watch with wire clip into which the remaining nine watches snugly fit.

The nine watches are so constructed that they sort of nest one on top of the other, so that several, if desired, may be shown as one watch.

The watches are disposed of as follows:—

Two are placed TOGETHER in the third and last elastic compartment, and one watch is placed in each of the remaining four compartments. The remaining ordinary watch is vested, being held in position by means of elastic sewn in the waistcoat, the clip watch is placed in the left hand trousers pocket, and the fake watch is secretly placed in position on the back of the right hand.

Casually showing the palms of the hand empty, the performer waving his right hand slightly, suddenly produces the fake watch. At the same time the left hand has been quietly procuring the watch from the left trousers pocket.

All eyes naturally being on the produced watch, this may be done with impunity.

The left hand is now brought over to the right as if to take the watch; actually the fake watch is again backpalmed and the other one shown in its stead.

The left hand now places the watch on the stand immediately in front of the first concealed watch, the fingers go in front of the stand, and the thumb at the back, so that the hand leaves the stand; the concealed watch is drawn up by the thumb, and held under cover of the fingers which are curled slightly round the watch. Simultaneously with this movement the right hand again produces a watch, thus keeping the eyes of the audience continually busy. The moves described are repeated till the performer comes to the two watches together, and these two are in due course shown

as ONE, but this one is not immediately placed down on the stand, the performer producing another watch in the right hand.

This is apparently also taken by the left hand, and the two watches are now actually exhibited as TWO.

They are placed on the stand and the performer withdraws his hand casually showing it empty.

Whilst catching the next watch the left hand procures the vested watch, and this in turn is placed on the stand, performer this time again procuring a watch from the back, this is repeated till finally the last two watches—together—are palmed in the left hand. When producing the backpalmed watch this time, it is disengaged from the finger—quite a simple matter—and transferred to the left hand, and placed against the two already therein, the three watches being shown as one.

The position of the three watches should be that the bows of the two watches are concealed by the fingers of the left hand, only the bow of the fake watch showing.

Right hand is casually shown empty, and the watches are again taken therein, the bow of the fake watch is now hidden, the bows of the two watches being in view, it appearing that the watch has been turned. The right thumb is now inserted into the fake, whilst the left hand is demonstrated empty.

The audience are requested to watch closely and the left hand takes the two watches as one, the right thumb at the same time drawing the fake watch behind the fingers of the right hand.

Saying "Watch the Watch," the performer by a movement of the left thumb (as if fanning cards) causes the two watches to separate and they are exhibited as two, this is immediately followed up by the production of the fake watch in the right hand, and all three watches are placed on to the stand with those already produced.

The moves perhaps read somewhat involved, but they are really quite simple and require much less practise than one might think.

The effect could of course be prolonged by catching a number of watches on the end of a chain, or finally producing six watches at once on a wand as described hereafter.

## **Production from a Handkerchief.**

An exceedingly simple production and one which is sometimes useful as a variation, is the production of a number of watches from a handkerchief.

For this the nine watches are placed into the clip watch, the other fake watch being dispensed with.

The watches may be concealed in the pocket or in any suitable place the performer's fancy dictates.

The handkerchief is exhibited and may be thrown for close inspection and whilst this is being done the ten watches are palmed in the left hand, an easy matter as they are all clipped together.

The handkerchief is spread out over the palmed watches, with some such comment that "It is rather large for its size," etc., and the centre is gripped by the finger and thumb of the right hand and lifted up.



Unknown to the audience they have also gripped the watches by their bows, and the handkerchief is thus draped round them.

The left hand is casually shown empty, and the handkerchief and its invisible load is taken therein.

Right hand is now shown empty, and plunged under the handkerchief, where it disengages the watches from the clip, and finally is withdrawn with ONE of the watches.

The left hand must at this stage be careful not to drop an odd watch or so accidentally, as this would hardly tend to improve the general effect, though when they are unclipped if held carelessly this would possibly occur.

The watches may thus be produced one at a time till the supply is exhausted, and the spectators being unaware of the fact that the watches fit together so neatly, will be extremely puzzled as to how ten watches can be produced so rapidly from nowhere.

An excellent finale for this production is provided by taking the handkerchief itself, and changing into still another watch, as next described.

### **Handkerchief to Watch.**

This is simply a watch made on the familiar Stodare Egg principle, being a watch case with a hole cut in the back.

This hollow watch is concealed in the profunde or elsewhere, and secretly obtained at the required moment.

Performer says he will show exactly how the trick is done, takes the handkerchief, which of course should be of the silk variety, and works it into the watch which is now shown, the handkerchief having of course vanished.

### **Patter and Presentation for Production of 4 Watches at Fingertips.**

The production of 4 watches at the fingertips, makes a pleasing change to the somewhat hackneyed billiard balls.

Two watches held together at their backs by a spring hinge, and two separate watches complete the necessary apparatus.

The watches have clips to facilitate the holding of them between the finger tips.

Having materialised the 4 watches, they can of course if desired be again vanished, but personally I content myself with the production, which I work as follows:—

The double or hinged watch is placed in the right-hand trousers pocket, one of the other watches in the left-hand trousers pocket, the remaining one being placed in the waistcoat pocket wherein these articles are usually located.

“Ladies and Gentlemen,” commences the performer, “a little manipulation making use of a very ordinary article, a watch.”

(The watch is openly taken from the waistcoat pocket, and shown back and front).

“What I believe is usually referred to as a silver lever.

I ask you to watch, the watch. I propose to take it in the left hand and squeeze it so.” (Watch actually palmed in right hand).

"As you see it really is a lever, for it has already left."

(A very old gag, but always a sure laugh.)

"It has not gone very far, as you see it has merely passed behind the right knee." (Watch produced therefrom).

"Most people replace their watch into the pocket in this manner," (watch placed into waistcoat pocket and withdrawn) "but being a conjuror I like it to do things differently to everyone else."

"I always take my watch into the right hand" (Actually palmed in left), "squeeze it, and pass it right through the material into the trousers pocket." (Right hand shown empty, and hinged watch is removed from the pocket, and placed between finger and thumb of the right hand.) I used to do this manipulation with a gold watch, but circumstances alter cases."

(Spring is actuated and second watch appears between fingers. Both hands drop to the knees, and under cover of a slight wavy motion, the hinged watch is again shown as one, and the palmed watch in the left hand shown, the effect being that one watch has passed through the knees. This latter watch is now placed between the third and fourth fingers of the right hand, the hinged one of course being still held between the thumb and first finger).

Performer continues confidentially, "I expect you have all guessed how this is accomplished. I ought to have told you before, but this watch is a repeater."

(Third watch is produced, performer at the same time gaining possession of the one in the left hand pocket with the left hand).

"The difficult part of conjuring with watches is that they are so hard to hold between the fingers, I nearly always drop one of them."

(Left hand approaches the right, and apparently takes the centre watch, Actually it is hinged back and the watch already palmed in the left hand is shown).

"However I am meeting with more success to-night, for as you see I am managing to hold one, two, three."

(Watch in left hand is placed between third and little finger).

"I don't know if I could manage another, One, two, three,"—(Produces watch) "and one more makes four."

It will be noticed that the final lines of patter indirectly convey how clever the performer really is. Modern audiences are apt to take too much for granted, and a little hint of this kind goes a long way, if delivered in such a manner that the audience do not actually perceive the performer is really blowing his own trumpet, as it were.

If the performer desires, several sleights can be introduced with the first watch, by using the small Excelsior Clips, the watch which in the method just described is in the left hand trousers pocket, may be hooked on to the back, or behind the coat lapel, etc., and all the usual moves indulged in.

## **Instantaneous Production of Six Watches on a Slender Wand.**

As a finale to any series of watch manipulation, this effect will be found hard to beat.

A slender rod about 22 inches long is held in the right hand, a slight wave, and suddenly six watches appear at intervals all along the rod.

The rod is merely a slender piece of wood, and may be made to represent the ordinary magic wand, if desired.

Each watch is fixed to a small split ring, and the rings are placed on the rod, where of course they slip up and down.

The rings are connected to each other by means of a strong piece of thread, each ring being 3 inches apart.

One end of the thread is attached to the end of the rod that will be held in the hand.

The working will now be clear, all the watches are slid to the end, and all six can easily be concealed by the hand.

A slight outward and downward jerk of the wand and out fly the six watches.

The wand must be kept slanting, pointing slightly downward, to prevent the watches slipping back towards the hand.

When experimenting with this effect, a hollow rod was tried, the watches being brought into position by means of elastic running down inside the rod.

This, however, involved a special catch to keep the elastic taut, and release it when required to function. The thread sometimes caught in the catch with disastrous results. so that finally the exceedingly simple, but highly effective method above described was evolved. Proving once again that the simplest method is always best.

## Wandering Watches.

In this problem four watches are seen resting on a triangular stand. They are taken one by one and vanished, a handkerchief is thrown over the stand, and on its removal the four watches have reappeared thereon.

This is simply an adaption of Mr. Owen Clark's ingenious triangular coin stand.

The stand is about 9 inches long, and has a flat base, the front being fixed in position at an angle, it is in fact a triangular stand with one side missing.

At the outset the open side is at the back, and by tilting the entire stand backwards, the base now becomes the front, the former front being at the back, and the open side is directly on the table.

Four watches are glued—or they may be temporarily fixed in position by conjurers' wax—to the base or under portion of the stand. Four duplicate watches are placed on the front of the stand, and the stand is placed on the table.

The watches are picked up and vanished by what is known in coin manipulation as the back finger clip.

The watch is apparently held between the first finger and thumb, but is really held in position by clipping the lower side between the thumb and second finger, the first finger being curled round the top of the watch, end of finger just touching the bow.

To vanish, the first finger comes across the face of the watch, down to the thumb, which releases its hold, and the watch is clipped edgeways between the two fingers at the back of the hand.

This sleight would of course be utterly impossible with a real watch, but the 'prop' watches being so thin makes the movement a very simple one.

The performer stands to the left of the table on which the stand is resting, so that he can keep the palm of the hand facing the audience, whilst it is lowered to the stand to pick up the next watch.

As this is done the watch at the back is released and falls in to the open side of the stand which is lined with velvet or felt to deaden the sound.

These moves are repeated till all the watches have been vanished, and the performer is left with one watch clipped at the back of the hand.

This may be disposed of under cover of obtaining the handkerchief, with which the stand is now covered.

In the action of placing the handkerchief over the stand is tilted back so that the erstwhile base with its glued watches comes to the front and the vanished watches are now covered by the stand, and completely out of sight.

On removing the handkerchief the watches are seen to have returned to the stand.

The performer could if desired, before removing the handkerchief, catch imaginary watches one by one and profess to be passing them invisibly on to the stand, or by means of the fake watch attached to the back of the hand, could visibly catch the watches, &c.

Various modes of presentation will suggest themselves to the reader.

## **Passing a Watch Through a Handkerchief.**

Although not big enough to be presented as a separate effect, this little interlude may be introduced with advantage into any problem in which the watches are used.

The watch having been shown back and front, is passed right through the centre of a handkerchief, which may if desired be borrowed, and needless to say, as usual the handkerchief is quite intact at the conclusion of the experiment.

The working involves the use of two watches, which are first of all exhibited as one in the right hand, and then placed under the handkerchief, attention being called to the shape of the watch which is plainly shown under the draped handkerchief.

The left hand now grasps the watch (one watch) through the handkerchief, the other watch being retained palmed in the right hand, which is withdrawn from under the handkerchief.

The latter is shown all round and a spectator is invited to feel the bow of the watch through the handkerchief, if desired.

Care must be taken that he only feels the bow, and even that only for a moment, otherwise he will discover the extreme thinness of the watch, indeed a nervous performer will probably prefer to omit this, perhaps. However, the handkerchief having been shown all round it is taken in the right hand and under cover of this the palmed watch is introduced behind it, and the two watches are placed together, the handkerchief in between.

Both hands can now be alternately shown empty, and the rear watch is now slowly worked into sight apparently passing through the material. When quite clear the handkerchief may be placed down over a B.A.W., and the watch dropped therein, or it may be dropped on to a servante. At the same time the performer remarks "Here we have the watch," drawing all attention to the watch, which enables him to dispose of the duplicate, after which he continues "and here we have the handkerchief," which may be thrown for examination, or if borrowed returned to its owner.

An impudent method of disposing of the duplicate watch is to plunge the handkerchief and watch with a vigorous motion into the outside breast pocket, the motion is difficult to describe but must be done in such a manner that the resistance of the air causes the ends of the handkerchief to fold back, so that the centre enters the pocket first, and the ends are left hanging outside the pocket. The watch drops to the bottom of the pocket, and with some such remark as "I am forgetting it is your handkerchief" the handkerchief is returned to its rightful owner.

## **Some Suggestions.**

A few suggestions that have occurred to me may be welcomed by readers who are desirous of working out combinations of their own.

**Vanish of Quantity of Watches.** The familiar paper cone with a double side takes on a more effective use when it is considered that owing to the small space required to conceal the watches, eight or nine could be placed separately in the cone and vanished by means of the double side, without fear of the paper looking suspiciously 'bulky' on the cone being unfolded.

**Vanish of Watches from the Finger Tips.** By means of a pull with a swivel attached thereto, three or four watches could be taken and secretly fixed to the swivel, after which they could be fanned out as it were, showing that there are unmistakably four watches, a slight movement and the watches have instantly disappeared.

**Instantaneous Production of Watches.** Having vanished four watches via the pull, they could be made to appear with equal rapidity, in a frame with the usual spring blind.

Or as an alternative, by the more prosaic method of concealing them in a frame behind a piece of black silk or velvet, which could be carried away with the handkerchief that in this case would of a necessity be used to cover the frame.

**Production of One or Two Watches from an Envelope.** One or two of the watches could be concealed with ease in a double envelope. An envelope manufactured from very stout manilla paper, could be marked by a member of the audience, under the judicious superintendence of the

performer, and having been sealed, after due course the watches could be discovered therein.

**Vanish from an Envelope.** By cutting a slit in the back of an envelope in the manner described in "Between Ourselves" under the heading "Mental Telepathy," a watch could be openly placed into the envelope and out via the slit. The envelope being stuck down and at a later period being torn across so that the slit becomes part and parcel of the tear. The watch has vanished and the torn envelope could be thrown to the audience.

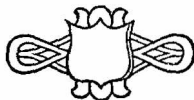
**Watches from Lemon.** Several watches could be concealed with ease in an orange or lemon, by cutting a slit and removing a portion of the interior. The slit could be sewn up with cotton or simply turned so that it is away from the audience. Of course orange or lemon so faked would be switched for one previously selected by the audience.

**Watches Produced or Vanished by Cloth Bag.** Our hoary old friend the egg bag has not often been used for watches. All the usual methods of egg bag presentation, and their name is legion, are applicable.

By introducing the clip watch first into the bag, and then placing the other nine separately into the bag, and incidentally into the clip watch bundle could be vanished and the bag turned inside out as per usual.

The watches could of course be produced from the apparently empty bag by reversing the above procedure.

The foregoing suggestions will give the reader plenty of scope for evolving various ideas of his own.



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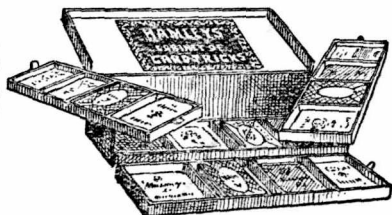
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