Misled

This effect has become a very popular one with Magicians, ever since David Copperfield presented it on one of his TV. Spectaculars. It is the visual and incredible penetration of a borrowed note or bill, by an ordinary pencil, with everything performed in front of their eyes. In effect the performer borrows a note. This is placed over a piece of paper of the same size and creased in half. A pencil is pushed through the note and the paper. The crease is opened out, and the audience can see the pencil going right through the borrowed note and the paper-from both sides.

The pencil can now be pulled away, ripping through the note and paper at the crease. Yet when they are opened out again, the ordinary paper is found to be ripped as one would expect, but the note is in tact and totally unharmed. The entire effect is so clean and convincing that the audience can't believe their eyes. Yet it is quite easy to perform, requiring only a few handling trials on your part.

The apparatus supplied by us consists of a pencil, and a Patching fake shell, which is completely invisible at the shortest distance when placed on the pencil. See illustration for what the fake shell looks like. The shell is fitted on the pencil when supplied, and should move freely up and down on the pencil. If it appears sticky due to moisture, remove it, rub a little powder over pencil and then replace the shell. The shell should always be kept over the pencil. It is fragile and delicate, and should always be handled with care.

Performance

1. Borrow a currency note, - a fifty-dollar bill is ideal for this effect.

2. Take a piece of ordinary paper and cut it with a pair of scissors to the exact size of the note. Display both freely and separately, stating you have two pieces of paper of exactly the same shape and size, even though one is worth $50.00, and the other worth almost nothing.

3. Place the note over the paper, and crease them both length wise in half. The paper is to the outside, bill to the inside.

4. Now you are apparently going to push the pencil right through the creased note and paper. Make sure the shell is on the middle of the pencil, with the long projecting part of the shell on top. Holding the creased note and paper with the edges towards you (Folded side away from you) push the tip of the pencil between the lower fold of the paper and the note. The pencil goes through with the paper at the bottom, and the folded note and paper on top. (See exploded view) When the top of the pencil bursts through the crease in the paper, with your thumb slide the shell for- wards. 'Me long part of the shell goes over the bottom of the note as
illustrated. You can do this by slightly lifting up the long part at the edge with your thumb as you push it forward. The pencil is also pushed deeper through the hole, so that it is about mid way through the hole.

5. Now holding the long part of the shell down with your thumb, open out the paper and note and show freely on both sides. On one side they can see the pencil apparently going through the middle of the note, and on the opposite side emerge from the middle of the paper. You have a perfect illusion of the pencil penetrating the note and the paper.

6. Fold back the paper and holding the pencil and shell together carefully remove the pencil, display it and replace in your pocket.

7. Now dramatically open out the paper and note, with the paper side towards the audience, so that they can see the hole in the paper. Separate out the note and paper holding one in each hand to show the note unharmed while the paper has a hole in it. Hand over both for examination. Instead of removing the pencil you can also rip through the paper, by pulling out the pencil sidewise after the note has been folded again as in step 6 above. This should be done with a fresh note.

Practice the above handling so that you have an optically correct and convincing illusion, and you will find it makes a very big impact on any audience. Hope you enjoyed this Bill! You can forward this to everyone if you want

You can make this gimmick: Easy – Just buy a sturdy package of straws, the fun colors that come in blue, yellow, red, black etc. and Cut a section of sturdy straw out to look just like the above gimmick.

Now – just find a pencil that matches the gimmick color. Can’t find straws in different colors? Then spray paint the straw piece to match the pencil.
David Copperfield got more credit for the 'pencil trick' than going over the Niagara Falls. Shove a borrowed pencil through the center of a bill. Next you yank the pencil out of the bill and show that the bill is completely unharmed. No holes, rips, no errors.

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