

The Book of Secrets

Errata List

First of all, thanks very much for your support of my work. I hope you found the Book of Secrets of value. There was a huge learning curve involved in this book, from learning Quark publishing software, Photoshop software and basic computer skills, to the nuts and bolts of getting a printed, bound book in my hands. Two separate computer crashes wiped out huge portions of my work, and I had to begin again.

I wanted this book to be a valuable teaching tool, and not just another magic market ‘product’. I constantly wrote, rewrote and corrected for three years. When I was done, I gave copies to several friends, they found errors and made additions and corrections. In the process of laying the book out, I continued to make corrections, all the way up to the final Blue Line approval copy before printing.

So how did all these things slip through? Well, the magic, the text and the production of the book amount to a *colossal* amount of details. I just did the best I could. If you happen to find any more in the second edition, maybe you could just keep it to yourself. I’m tired.

One of the most frustrating things was describing the card magic in the book. Most magicians consider a person “left handed” if he holds the pack in the right hand for dealing. As I have mentioned in my book, I am in fact right handed, but I found that most moves were easier for me with the deck held in my right, my stronger hand. I found that passes, side steals, palms, and false dealing require most of the labor from the dealing hand. So, I switched the deck to be held in my strong hand, the right. Since I was a teenager, I have mentally switched every description I have ever read, right for left. Confusing, but once the basic action is understood, it was no longer a problem.

My question was, should I describe these moves in the book the way most people do, holding the deck in the left, or the way I have practiced for decades, in the right? I opted for describing the routines holding the deck the way most people do, in the left.

This made it difficult to demonstrate properly for the illustrations. So in many cases, I took the photo with the deck in my right and “flipped” the photo in Photoshop so it would be easier for most people. Many times this necessitated cutting and pasting the indices on the cards so they were not backwards. Along the way, my eyes just glazed over and I must have missed some, as the illustration does not always match the text. All the corrections below have been made in the second printing. I thought it would benefit some readers to have access to these changes.

I mention this so you might understand the mental gymnastics required, and excuse my oversights and grant me your mercy.

Best of luck in pursuit of better magic!

Sincerely,
John Carney
September, 2004

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Corrections made in Second Edition

Pg. 6, 4th paragraph:

I would attempt not simply to feed his appetite, but to nourish him, providing perspective on trendy moves and tricks, focusing on effects instead of just methods and novelty alone. Finally, I would challenge my student to live up to his potential, setting his sights a little higher with each new accomplishment; never to feel he “knows it all.”

Pg. 7, first paragraph:

... student can add his own contributions of thought and deed, in the hope that he does not stop thinking once he has closed the book, and that he will continue to set new problems to solve, new goals to achieve.

Pg. 19, 1st paragraph:

[Added] **The Al Baker books have been reprinted with additional material in “The Secret Ways of Al Baker” by Todd Karr’s Miracle Factory.**

Pg. 36, 3rd paragraph

[Additions] **In one of his most famous illusions, he removed a small purse and went on to explain that he saved travel expenses by carrying his wife from town to town in this small parcel. From the purse, he removed a small die. This die would change in his hands, to one a foot square. This was placed on a platform, where it instantly and visibly grew to over four foot square.**

Pg. 41, 2nd paragraph:

[Added] **I have been told that small purses are sold in doll shops as full sized purses for dolls.**

Pg. 57, 6th paragraph:

To palm the cards, move the left little finger to the right and lift them up into the right palm, [added] **pushing them home with the left ring and middle fingers.**

Pg. 62, 6th paragraph:

[added] **This technique is identical to that described by Cliff Green in *Professional Card Magic*.**

Pg. 64:

[Both **illustrations are reversed.** They should show the *right* hand holding the deck from above.]

Pg. 65:

[**Illustration is reversed.** Should show the *right* hand holding the deck from above.]

Pg. 66:

[**Illustration is reversed.** Should show the card in *left* hand.]

Pg. 93:

[**Third illustration is reversed.** Should show left arm is extended, right is at side]

Pg. 111, 5th paragraph:

You will now do the coin star production, [added] **an invention of the coin master, Manuel.** In this display, a coin appears at the tips of each pair of fingers.

Pg. 112, 4th paragraph:

This innovative method of concealment, believed to be the invention of [added] **the mysterious L`Homme Masque, makes possible a startling vanish and production of a coin.**

Pg. 113

[Subheading changed] *L`Homme Masque – Downs Palm*

Pg. 114, 2nd paragraph:

[Added to end]... **explained by Lewis Ganson in his Routed Manipulation I.**

Pg. 149, quotation:

[Center justified]

Pg. 151, quotation

[Center justified]

Pg. 186

[**Illustration is reversed.** Should show fan held in the right and deck in the left]

Pg. 190

[**Illustration is reversed.** Should show the right hand above the left]

Pg. 191

[**Both illustrations are reversed.** Cards should be held in the left hand]

Pg. 193, 4th paragraph:

[Hierophant in italics, date in parenthesis]

Pg. 221, 1st paragraph:

[Changed from Alexander to **Carl Herrmann**]

Pg. 237, 1st paragraph:

[Space added] Erdnase was Vernon's first magic book and he read it repeatedly, absorbing it completely ...

Pg. 239, 1st paragraph:

[Changed *an* to *a*] Therefore, we need **a** plausible excuse to handle the cards.

Pg. 262, 2nd paragraph:

[Removed **and**] He toured Finland at the age of forty-one, then later ...

Pg. 266, 2nd paragraph:

Fold and glue the 4 1/2" square into **an** envelope similar to the first, and insert ...

Pg. 341, 2nd paragraph:

To release a coin, the **index or middle finger** bends inward and pushes

Pg. 344, 2nd illustration description

[Added] **Exposed for clarity**

Pg. 347, *Your Turn*:

[Right and left justified]

End of Errata