



A LECTURE

BY



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COINS

CLOSE-UP MAGIC

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STANDUP FOLDING COINS THROUGH TABLE

There is no advance preparation - you need three regular half dollars and a folding coin to match. You must be standing at a table (Though you can sit, of course, if circumstances permit).

Toss the coins on the table and arrange them in a horizontal row. Make sure that the folding coin is at the left end of the row. Turn all the coins head side up. Your palm-down right hand picks up the folding coin between thumb, first and second fingers by digging your fingers under it's outer end so the head side will stay pressed against your thumb. Lift the coin and turn your right hand palm up to display it for a moment. Consistency of action throughout the trick is important, so follow this carefully.

Turn your right hand palm down and place the coin between your left thumb and second finger. Note that it's gripped in a horizontal position, with the cuts running toward and away from you (not side to side!). The upper surface of the coin should be tilted toward the audience.

Your right hand turns palm down and picks up the second coin exactly the same way as the first. Turn your hand palm up to display it resting on your first and second fingers for a moment. Turn the hand palm down and move it to your left hand. Your right thumbtip contacts the right panel of the folding coin and flips it over and onto the lower coin as you press the upper coin into position (fig.1). Call this "Cocking the Shell." Note that once the panel has been folded over sufficiently so that downward pressure on the upper coin will push it into position, your right thumb has moved beneath the folding coin and presses upward for additional leverage. The folded portion of the lower coin is still concealed from the audience behind the upper coin. It takes some strength for your second finger and thumb to hold everything securely in position (some practice will help, but using only one rubber band on the folding coin will make it considerably easier). There will be a discepan air space between the coins since the folded panel lies between them - it is unimportant and will go unnoticed by laymen.

Your right hand moves away, turns palm down, and picks up the third coin. Display it on your first and second fingers like the others, then turn the hand palm down. Place this coin onto the two already in your left hand, spread slightly to the right.

Your right hand picks up the fourth coin, turns palm up and displays it on your first and second fingers, then turns palm down, your thumb moving beneath it. If you raise your first and second fingers a tiny bit you'll see that the coin is actually balanced on your thumb. Your thumb moves the coin to low finger (or Bosco) palm, under your third and pinky fingers. Immediately curl your third and pinky fingers just enough to hold the coin in place, then move your thumb back beneath your first and second fingers as if the coin was still there. All of this occurs while your right hand moves to your left hand to ostensibly place the fourth coin in position.

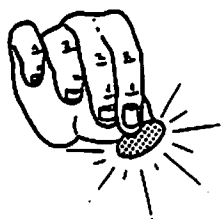
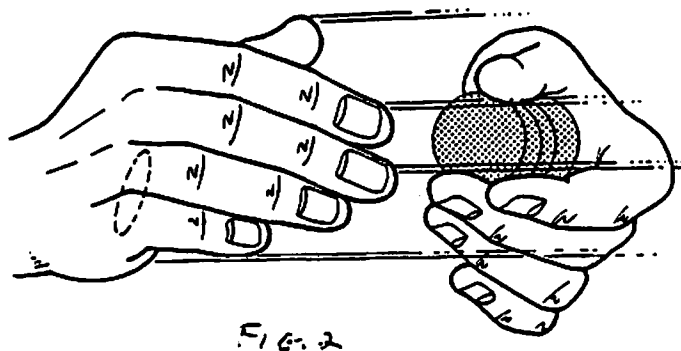
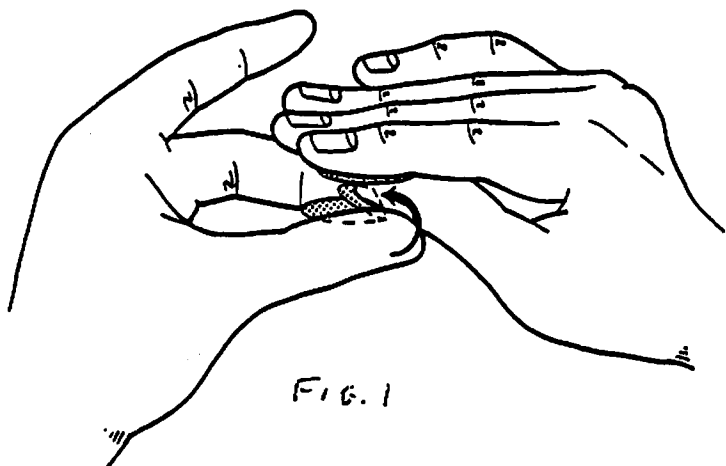
Your right first and second fingers move over the coins in your left hand as if placing the fourth coin there (your thumb moves under the coins for support). Actually your right first and second fingers pull the two uppermost coins to the right, exposing a little piece of the folded-over panel of the gimmicked coin. Give everything a squeeze to make sure the coins are all flatly against one another and positioned properly, then move your right hand away (fig.2). It really looks like there are four coins in your left hand! (Call this "The Fake Placement.")

Move your palm-down right hand about a foot and a half away from your left hand. Two things happen simultaneously: your left hand drops its coins to the table so you get an instantaneous vanish of one, and thumb-push the finger palmed coin to your right fingertips (fig.3). It's a nice illusion - the coin vanishes from one spot and reappears in another in the same instant.

Repeat the same sequence for the second coin. In other words, apparently put all three coins back between your left thumb and second finger. Actually you cock the folding coin on the second coin and steal the third coin, pulling the second coin to the right. There will appear to be three coins in your left hand afterward. Your right picks up the first coin which flew across and gestures with it, then places it back on the table. Repeat the instant vanish and reproduction, dropping the left-hand coins to the table and pushing the coin from low finger palm to your right fingertips. Drop the just-produced coin to the table.

Your left hand picks up its two coins and shows them, then closes into a fist getting ready for Han Ping Chien. Your right hand picks up both its coins and closes into a palm-down fist, classic palming both coins. Your right hand moves forward, as if tossing its coins to the table, but really keeping them palmed. Your left hand lets its two coins slide out the pinky side of the fist so they get trapped under the right hand as it slaps down on the table. Lift your right hand to show two coins, then pick them up and close the hand into a fist. Let the coins rest on the fingertips.

To cause the third coin to fly across, simply let one of the classic-palmed coins drop onto the ones in fingertip rest with a clink. Open your right hand and drop three coins on the table. Pick them up and make a fist again. Let the fourth coin drop onto those three and open your hand to reveal four coins. Show your left hand empty to end.



THE TABLE

You need three regular half dollars, a magnetic half dollar, and a wooden toy table of the kind that's used for a large dollhouse. The top surface is three inches by five inches, and the distance from the bottom of each leg to the table surface is two inches. It is not important if the table you use does not exactly match these dimensions - but you must alter the dimensions of the tablecloth about to be described in order for it to fit perfectly. The dimensions presented here will serve as a guide. The table must also have a little lip running around the bottom of the tabletop. Get a sheet of rubberized magnet and cut it to fit exactly inside the recess created by the lip beneath the table. Once it's glued in place it will appear to be, quite innocently, the black underside of the table.

All four sides of the tablecloth, when draped over the table, must just touch the real table. A sheet of thin, yet stiff, plastic which is just a tad larger than the surface of the table is secured to the center of the tablecloth. It is attached to the cloth using double-sided plastic carpet tape. This tape has adhesive on both sides, is about one and a half inches wide, and will hold the plastic and cloth together in such a way that the other side of the cloth will remain completely smooth and natural looking. You cannot glue the cloth to the plastic because it will buckle and look suspicious.

Place the tablecloth on the table directly in front of you, plastic side down, one of the nine-inch sides toward you. Fold the two inches of cloth on either side of the plastic over onto the center portion. Fold the inner portion over onto the center, then the outer portion over onto that. The way in which the cloth is folded is important in order to achieve a natural looking handling when it's placed over the table.

You must be seated at a table opposite the audience. Place the table and folded tablecloth in **your** case, beside you on a chair to your right. One of the real half dollars is on your right thigh. The other three coins, two real and one magnetic, are stacked in the case so that the magnetic coin is on the bottom.

To perform, say, "This is the famous coins through the table trick done by magicians." Grasp the stack of three coins with your right hand and hold them above the table to your right. Toss them to the left so they spread into a horizontal row with the magnetic coin at the right end. Continue, "It's usually done with half dollars, fifty-cent pieces, and they go through the table. The magician keeps one hand on the table, the other hand under, and the coins go through. It's a wonderful trick, but I never liked putting my hand under the table - and I think I've found a way around the problem." During this both hands turn over the tabled coins a few times. Make sure to gesture with both hands palm up as you speak so they're seen empty.

Your right hand drops into your lap and classic palms the coin that's on your right thigh. This is done as your hand is on the way to get the table from your case. Grasp the little table and bring it up onto the table, standing it on your side of the row of coins, long side toward you. At the same time say, "Ladies and gentlemen, with your permission - The Coins Through the Table. It's your basic garden variety four-legged table." Pick up the table with your left hand and flash the bottom. Set it back on the table afterward.

Your right hand lifts the magnetic coin at the right end of the row of coins, and taps the little tabletop with it as you say, "And if you watch you'll see these coins go right through the table...." Lift the coin and pick up the table with your left hand, turning it over. Your

right hand drops the magnetic coin onto the underside of the table as you continue the sentence, "... out the other side...". As soon as your right hand has dropped the coin it settles to the table in a relaxed fist, just long enough for you to drop the palmed coin to fingertip rest.

Begin the actions of a "Shuttle Pass," your left hand turning the table over and your right hand turning palm up, straightened fingers moving beneath the table. It appears as if you have dumped the coin onto your right fingers, though the magnetic coin will actually adhere to the table's underside. Your right hand moves to the right with the switched-in coin on the fingertips. Set the table down and push the right-hand coin to the fingertips as the hand turns palm down. Do not actually tap the coin on the table because you may dislodge the magnetic coin, so fake it--just don't hit the table, as you continue, "...through the table...". Your left hand lifts the table and your right hand drops the coin onto the real table, your left hand puts the little table back down over the coin as you finish the sentence, "...to the table."

That's a long sequence, and the pattern must be said smoothly to cover all the action. The single unbroken sentence looks like this, "And if you watch you'll see these coins go right through the table, out the other side, through the table, to the table."

Lift the little table with your left hand so your right hand can easily pick up the coin beneath it. Replace the little table. Your right hand picks up the other two coins so it holds all three, then turns palm up to display them for a moment. Turn it palm down and apparently toss all three coins into your left hand but retain one using the "Benzais Friction Palm." Afterward your right hand settles to the table with the coin in fingertip rest.

Turn your closed left fist, containing two coins, palm up and move it over the little table with just enough force to dislodge the magnetic coin so it falls to the table (fig.1.). Open your left fingers to show two coins in the hand.

Move your left hand forward and turn it over, dropping the two coins onto the regular table in front of the little table. Move your right hand forward, classic palming the coin that's been in fingertip rest. Both hands now turn over the two coins in front of the little table. Let go of those coins and move your hands back a bit. Your left hand lifts the little table and moves it a few inches toward you, tabling it again afterward.

Your right hand lifts the coin which was under the table, (it's the magnetic coin). Repeat the entire sequence where your right hand taps the coin on top of the table, then your left hand turns the little table upside down so you can drop the coin onto the magnetic surface. Do the "Shuttle Pass" as you pretend to retake that coin in your right hand, etc. The sequence ends with your right hand leaving the coin beneath the little table, which your left hand has placed back on the table.

Pick up the two coins in front of the table with your right hand - the third coin is left beneath the little table. Repeat the "Benzais Friction Palm," apparently tossing both coins into your left hand, actually retaining one in fingertip rest. Your right hand settles to the table in a relaxed fist afterward. Your left hand closes and turns palm up. Tap the back of your left fist on the little table to dislodge the magnetic coin so it falls onto the coin beneath the table. Open your left hand to reveal only one coin inside.

Move your left hand forward and dump that coin on the table. As you retract your left hand, your right hand moves forward, classic palming the coin inside. It turns over the single coin that your left hand just dumped on the table, leaving it there afterward.

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Your left hand lifts the little table and turns it upside down while your right hand lifts the two coins which were beneath it- the magnetic coin is uppermost. The coins are held between your thumb and first finger. Lift your thumb, letting the coins somersault over your first finger and fall onto the underside of the table as you say, "They end up on this side...". (The coins turn over so the magnetic coin lands on the magnetic surface with the regular coin on top of it.) Lower your right hand and turn it palm up, at the same time turning the table over. This is a "Utility Switch"; the magnetic coin will remain under the table while the other coin will fall to join the one already in your right hand. Push those coins to the fingertips as your left hand puts the little table down again. Pretend to tap them on the table and finish the sentence, saying, "...but start off on this side." Slide the two coins under the center of the little table.

Your right hand picks up the single coin on the table and does a "Retention Vanish." Immediately move your right hand to the table edge and lap the coin. Hold your palm-up left fist to the left of the table. Open it with an upward tossing motion, and follow the flight of the invisible coin with your right first finger. The coin flies up, and then down in an arc to the little table, which your right first finger taps to dislodge the magnetic coin.

Your left hand picks up the little table so your right hand can remove the coins from beneath it. Set the little table back down as your right hand tosses the coins onto the table from right to left so they spread into a horizontal row. During this say, "That's three coins through the table, one at a time." Stack the coins and continue, "Now there's only one thing left for me to do - put them all through the table at once." Set the stack on the table.

Say, "And to make tht even more mysterious I'm going to cover the table. Not with a handkerchief, but with a tablecloth." Time things so that your right hand, which has gone into your case and grasped the pre-folded cloth thumb beneath and fingers above, comes into view at the end of the sentence. Set the folded cloth on the little table, while your left hand moves in front and lifts the stack of coins. Notice how things are handled so that the fact that the cloth may be a little too stiff is never questioned.

Say, "This way even though you won't actually see the coins go through, you may hear them." As you talk, transfer the stack of coins to your right hand, which turns palm down and drops them on the table as you say, "...hear them." Both hands begin to gently unfold the tablecloth, simultaneously holding it in place. All you have to do is first push the outer flap of cloth off so it drapes over the front of the table, then the inner flap, then the right and left flaps.

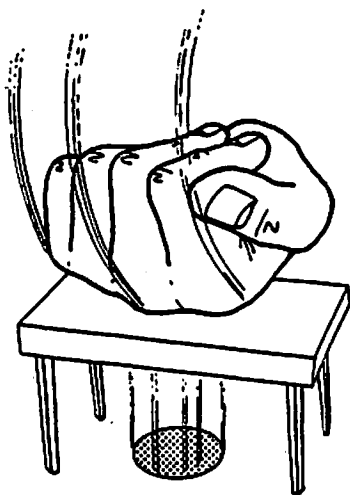
Turn your right hand palm down and pick up the stack of coins. Transfer it to between your left thumb and fingers. Your palm-down right hand grasps the little table, thumb at the center of the outer long side. Say, "You will actually hear the coins go through the table..., " as your right hand lifts the little table and moves it back past the real table's edge while your left hand lowers its coins over the real table.

While your right hand is past the table edge, it releases the table (this is easy since the plastic is slightly larger). You must do this in a specific way - don't just let it drop. First, bend your hand back slightly at the wrist so your fingers are angled toward you. Relax your second finger so the outer long side of the table begins to fall first, causing the the table to flip upside down. This way it will land with the flat surface on your thigh and not bounce all over. Finally make sure that the lower edge of the cloth is just beneath the edge of the real table before you let the little table go.

Once you feel the table drop, your right hand immediately moves forward again as you lift your left hand. Hold the cloth so its lower edge just touches the tabletop - so the audience cannot see beneath it.

Say, "Of course if I really wanted to I could forget about the coins (your left hand tosses them forward on the table), put my hand beneath the table (put your left hand under the table), and put the table through the table." When your left hand goes under the table it doubles back, bending at the elbow and grasps the little table in your lap. While it's still in your lap, turn your left hand over so the table is rightside up. As you come to the last part of the preceding sentence, simply release the cloth with your right fingers letting it fall to the table. The air trapped beneath by the plastic will cause all the side flaps to fly out so the cloth lands flat. Immediately smack your palm-down right hand flatly over the center of the cloth as if emphasizing that the table's gone - but this is really to help conceal the fake in the cloth. Your left hand immediately comes up with the little table.

As your left hand moves forward to place the little table back on the table (where the cloth presently rest), your right hand grasps the cloth by one of the edges near you and simply pulls it back off the table and drops it into your case. Very neat and simple, and you end clean.



F-16-1

FAVORITE WILD COIN

You need three Chinese coins, one copper coin, one silver coin, and a small change purse. Sandwich the Chinese coins between the copper and silver coins and slip all five inside the purse. Table the purse so the silver coin side of the stack is uppermost.

Pick up the purse with your right hand and shake it so the audience hears the coins inside jingling. Grasp the bottom of the purse between your left thumb and fingers in position for the "Double Steal" described in the lecture. Snap open the purse and do the move, your right hand pulling both the copper and silver out of the purse. Only the silver coin is seen by the audience because the copper is pulled down by your thumb and hidden behind your fingers. Afterward, drop the silver coin to the table. Transfer the purse to your right hand, which takes it by the frame between thumb and first finger and drops it, still open, on the table in front of your right shoulder, mouth toward you. The coins inside should jingle when the purse hits the table. As your right hand tables the purse, press the coin from fingertip rest into classic palm.

Pick up the silver coin, show both sides, and do a "Bobo Switch", thumb palming the silver coin and tossing the copper coin into your left hand which closes into a fist around it.

As your right hand descends to the table after the switch, transfer the coin from thumb palm to fingertip rest. Open your left hand to reveal the copper coin. Drop the coin to the table.

"The Fake Take": Your right hand moves toward the purse, silver coin in fingertip rest. When your hand gets close enough, quickly straighten your fingers so they enter the purse. The coin in fingertip rest will remain on your fingertips even as they straighten due to centrifugal force. The silver coin lands directly on top of the Chinese coins. Without pausing, pull the coin back out of the purse, holding it between thumb and fingertips (fig.1.). Drop the silver coin on your left hand.

"The Fake Put": Your palm-down right hand takes the silver coin between thumb and fingers. You must do a bit of acting here to take attention away from your right hand. Obviously the audience will see what it does, but the emphasis should shift to your left hand. Say, "If I did it with one (look at your right hand and raise it a bit) I should be able to do it with this one (lower your right hand and raise your left hand)." While attention has been turned to your palm-up left hand, holding the silver coin between thumb and fingers, your right hand pretends to put the copper coin back into the purse. The coin is held in fingertip rest by your thumb as the fingers straighten and enter the purse. Strike the copper coin against the Chinese coins to make an appropriate noise, then curl your right fingers and move the hand back. Your thumb continues to hold the copper coin in position until the fingers are sufficiently curled - then it moves away. The hand ends in a relaxed fist, resting on the table.

"A Changeover Palm": This is David's handling of an old move. Maneuver the silver coin onto the finger base of your palm-up left hand. Your right hand descends over your left fingers, your right thumb moving onto the inner edge of the silver coin. Straighten your right fingers, letting the copper coin fall onto your left fingers. The backs of your right fingers continue to conceal everything from the audience. Your right first finger slides under the silver coin. Both hands turn simultaneously - your right hand palm up and your left hand palm down. Your left fingers curl as the hand turns so the copper coins ends finger palmed.

Do a "Fingertip Retention Vanish," apparently placing the silver coin back into your left hand. Both hands remain palm down during the move so the copper coin stays hidden. Your right hand settles to the table as your left hand turns palm up and opens to reveal the second copper coin. Drop it on the table.

Your right hand does the "Fake Take" to seemingly extract a third silver coin from the purse. Drop that silver coin onto your left hand. Pick up the copper coin with your right hand and execute the "Fake Put," apparently returning it to the purse.

Do a "Changeover Palm" to take the heat off your right hand by taking the silver coin with it and secretly leaving the copper in your left hand.

Maneuver the silver coin into right-hand "Spellbound" position, then do Vernon's move. Afterward the copper coin will be displayed between your right thumb and fingers and the silver coin will be thumb palmed in your left hand. Transfer the silver coin to fingertip rest as your hand settles to the table in a fist.

Your right hand does the "Fake Put" as it ostensibly replaces the copper coin in the purse. Pause a moment, then move your right hand forward, classic palming the coin as you extend your first finger and press the purse shut on the table. You can now lift the purse and shake it, handing it to a spectator. When he opens it he'll find three Chinese coins inside.

If you're in a position to lap, then you can end this way. Once you have apparently put the second copper coin back inside the purse, do a Vernon "Spellbound" change in your left hand, leaving the copper coin in view there and thumb palming the silver coin in your right hand. After the change your right hand moves to the right, down and to the table edge to lap the thumb-palmed coin. It turns palm up after so it's seen empty.

Maneuver the copper coin to an open finger palm in your left hand, then do a "Shuttle Pass" even though there is no coin in your right hand. Your right hand comes away, palm down with fingers straight and together, as if it held the copper coin beneath them. Insert your right fingers into the purse, hitting the Chinese coins so they make a noise as if the copper coin had been placed on top of them. Immediately snap the purse closed and hand it to the spectator with an empty hand (and make sure he sees that it's seen empty!). You should have plenty of time to clean up while the purse is opened.

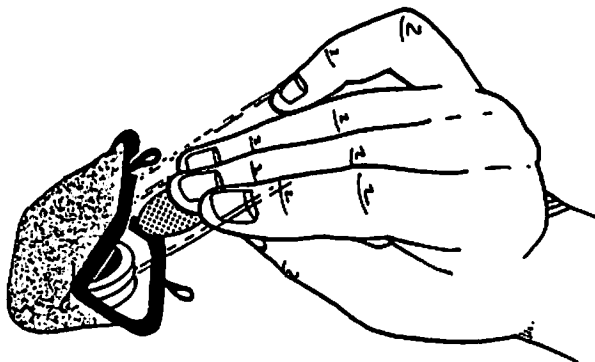


FIG. 1

SALT SHAKER

You need an opaque twenty-four inch silk (the silk must be mixed with some other fabric such as polyester so it's thicker than an ordinary magician's silk), preferably of a dark color, and three large restaurant type salt shakers (they're about five inches high). Each is prepared in a different way. Bring all three to a professional glass worker for the following modifications. Cut the bottoms off all three. Put a half dollar inside one of the shakers and have the bottom reattached. Now reattach the bottoms of the other two shakers as well, and all three must be recut and bevelled so they're all exactly the same height and appear exactly the same. Screw the covers onto the shaker with the coin in it, and a second shaker - which remains empty. Fill the third shaker with salt, then put a piece of plastic over the top before screwing the lid back on. This will prevent the salt from coming out through the holes.

In addition you will need a half dollar which matches the one inside the salt shaker. Everything is in your case, below table level and off to your right. To get into the routine, your right hand turns palm down and reaches into the case, grasping the shaker with the coin, and the salt-filled shaker. Inconspicuously move them into your lap, gripping their bottoms (so they stand upright) between your thighs. Leave the shaker with the coin in the center of your lap, and slide the salt-filled shaker to between your knees so it's out of the way. Preparation is complete, and you're ready to begin.

To perform, remove the empty salt shaker from your case and set it upright on the table. Then remove the silk and table it to the right. Pick up the shaker and unscrew the cap as you say, "A genuine salt shaker, all the way from New York City." Display both the cap and shaker very cleanly, then screw the cap back on and set it upright on the table directly in front of you, about eight inches from the edge.

Say, "And you have to admit that it would be a great trick if I could take this handkerchief...." As you patter, pick up the silk with both hands and stretch it out between them so each hand holds an adjacent corner. Note that your right third and pinky fingers are curled, grasping the hanky tightly, enabling your first and second fingers to do dirty work later on. As you continue the sentence, saying, "...cover up the salt shaker...", kick your hands outward at the wrists so the hanky billows out at the bottom and covers the shaker. Immediately lower your hands into your lap and grasp the cap of the shaker with the coin in it behind the upper edge of the hanky between your right thumb, first, and second fingers. During this the hanky still covers the shaker that's on the table (which completely obscures the audience's view of what's going on behind it). Lift your hands straight up about six inches (the shaker with the coin now behind the hanky) as you continue, "...take away the handkerchief and have it be filled with salt".

The unbroken patter reads, "And you have to admit that it would be a great trick if I could take this handkerchief, cover up the salt shaker, take away the handkerchief and it would be filled with salt".

Say, "That would be wonderful, and it's just what I'm going to do." At the same time move your hands outward to beyond the empty shaker, swinging the bottom of the hanky outward. Move them toward you, lowering them, and setting the shaker with the coin in it on the table directly in front of the empty shaker (fig.1). Immediately grasp the cap of the empty shaker between your right thumb and fingertips (the same way in which the other one was just held) and lift it slightly.

Move your hands inward until they're over your lap - the bottom of the hanky still covers the switched-in shaker now standing on the table. Begin to move your hands forward again, at the same time releasing

the stolen shaker. Because it is allowed to fall after your hands have started moving forward, it'll turn cap toward audience and land between your thighs lying down. Your hands continue forward so you can pull the upper edge of the hanky two-thirds of the way down in front of the tabled shaker to give the audience one last peek as you say, "No salt yet". Bring the upper edge of the hanky over the shaker and arrange it so the shaker is in the middle, then let go.

Reach into your case and bring out the half dollar. Display it, turning it over between your hands, then set it flatly on top of the hanky so it rests on the cap of the upright shaker as you say, "I will even put a coin on top of the salt shaker so that if I tried to unscrew the cap to sneak some salt in the coin would fall off". Wave both palm-down hands over the shaker and say, "Lots of salt".

Say, "I'll tell you what - let me do this a little differently. Instead of putting salt in the salt shaker, I'll put the coin in the salt shaker". There's a lot of action which accompanies this, so read slowly. Your right hand takes the coin off the top of the shaker and pretends to put it into your left hand. Do a "Classic Palm Vanish", pushing the coin into classic palm with your right third finger as your right hand pretends to put it into your left. Both hands move simultaneously - your right hand to the table edge and your left fist to over the shaker. Note that your right fingers rest on the table edge and your palm is directly over your lap (and the empty shaker lying in it). Open your left fist and let the classic-palmed coin fall from your right hand at the same time. The coin will hit the empty shaker in your lap with a clink, though it gives the illusion that the coin from your left hand has landed (somehow) in the shaker beneath the hanky. You should just reach the end of the sentence and be saying, "...coin in the salt shaker", when the audience hears the clink.

Your hands grasp the inner edge of the silk and, as you pull the silk back off the tabled shaker, you steal the salt-filled shaker as before. Here you must reach farther beneath the table with your right hand than before, since the salt-filled shaker is between your knees, however the misdirection is so strong that it doesn't matter.

Once you've raised your hands, your left hand lets go of its end of the silk. Your left hand picks up the shaker with the coin in it and shakes it. Move your right hand toward the table, bending it back at the wrist. Let the bottom of the silk hit the table first, just in front of the edge, and then double it over, laying the upper half with the shaker hidden behind it on top. Move your right hand away.

Push the shaker with the coin in it toward the audience as you ask them to open it and remove the coin. While they're unscrewing the cap and finding it impossible to remove the coin (it's too big to come out), drop both hands into your lap. Finger palm the loose coin in your right hand. Your left hand picks up the empty shaker which has been lying down and levers it upright, placing it between your knees and out of the way. Raise your hands onto the table afterward.

Take the shaker with the coin in it back from the audience (after they have screwed the cap back on) and set it on the table directly in front of you in position for the same switch already shown in figure 1. At the same time your right hand lifts the hanky by its edge, picking up the salt-filled shaker behind it in the same position it was in before you put it down. Once your left hand has positioned the other shaker, it joins your right hand and grasps the appropriate corner again.

This time the switch is performed a little differently. Move the hanky over the tabled shaker and put the salt-filled shaker in front of the shaker with the coin in it. Now, your left hand picks up the shaker with the coin in it between thumb, first, and second fingers.

Both hands pull the inner edge of the hanky back until the shaker in your left hand is directly over your lap. Let go of the hanky with your right hand. Move your right hand forward and grasp the cap of the shaker that's beneath the silk. Lift it and give it a little shake, at the same time letting go of the shaker held by your left hand. You must time it so that the shaker with the coin in it hits your left thigh, making a nice jingle, at the same time that your right hand jiggles the shaker beneath the hanky. The illusion of the sound coming from the shaker on the table is perfect.

Your right hand tables the shaker and your left hand drops its corner of the hanky. If there's a lot of excess material hanging off the back of the table, fold that portion of the hanky up and over the table.

Pause for a moment, then raise both hands and move them toward each other above the shaker. Your right thumb pushes the finger-palmed coin to your fingertips, where it's produced between both hands. Display the coin and place it aside. Pause again, then whip away the hanky to reveal that the shaker has become filled with salt - which is exactly what you promised to do at the very beginning.

