



A BASIC SPONGE BALL ROUTINE



Ball from Nowhere

Prepare by putting three sponge balls in an outside jacket pocket. Bend your right arm up. At the crotch of the elbow, place a fourth sponge, and fold part of your sleeve over the ball. If this is done properly, the ball cannot be seen. Straighten your tie or finger your coat lapel with your right hand thus making the bent position of your arm seem natural.

As you patter, bend the other arm up and show both palms to the spectators. Prove your hands are empty by showing them back and front. With your right hand, pull up the left sleeve by grasping it at the crotch of the elbow. Call attention to the left cuff pointing out that there is nothing up that sleeve. Release the left sleeve.

Bring your left hand over and pull up the right sleeve in the same manner as you have done with the left. As left hand pulls up right sleeve, obtain the hidden sponge. Bring your hands together rather quickly, palm to palm, with the ball concealed between them.

Rub your palms together as if there were nothing between them and ask someone to blow on your hands. Then, slowly, separate them to show the ball that has appeared from nowhere.

While spectators are examining your "ball from nowhere," steal another sponge from your pocket. When you take back the first sponge, do so with the empty hand. Work the concealed sponge to the finger-tips, bring your hands together pressing the two sponges against each other and appear to twist the ball just returned to you. Separate your hands and show that one ball has become two.

Flight Through Space

Put both sponges on the table. Pick up one sponge with right hand, holding it just below the tips of right fingers and thumb.



Hold left palm open. Place sponge and fingertips of right hand into left palm; close left fingers around right fingers and sponge. Remove right fingers, still holding sponge and, immediately, pick up second ball from the table with the same hand squeezing the two balls together and showing them as one ball. Your left hand must remain closed as if holding a ball.



Your right hand now places the double sponge in spectator's hand and spectator is helped to close his hand tightly. Tell spectator that the ball in your hand is going to make an invisible flight through space and join the ball he has. Open your left hand, show the sponge has gone, and then ask the spectator to open his hand. He will be amazed to find he has two sponges instead of one.

One and One Makes Three

Ask the spectator to place the two sponges on the table. As he is doing this, steal and conceal another sponge in your right hand. With right hand holding the concealed sponge, pick up one of the sponges from the table (adding it to the concealed one) then, immediately, pick up the other sponge. You now have three pressed together in your right hand. Put the three in the spectator's hand as you tell him he cannot add and ask him how much is one sponge and one sponge. He will say "two", and be very much surprised when he opens his hand to find three sponges. If he isn't, you've done it badly. Practice some more.



The Strange Subtraction

Put the three sponges on the table. As you talk, steal the fourth from your pocket and keep it concealed in your right hand which should hang at your side.

Tell the spectator that he not only can't add—he can't subtract! Hold open your left palm. With right hand, pick up one of the sponges on the table adding it to the concealed one; place both together in your left palm and close your left hand. As you do this, say: "If I take one sponge and put it in my left hand." Stop talking, pick up one sponge from the table with right hand and put it in left hand and continue... "and then another in my left hand..." Now, pick up the last sponge with right hand and place hand and sponge in right pocket "...and I put one in my pocket—how many are left in my hand?" The spectator will say "two" and be surprised when you open your left hand and he sees three.

Your right hand is at your side with the sponge it apparently dropped in the pocket

et still concealed in it.

Repeat the above and again the spectator will find three sponges in your hand instead of two.

The Climax

After the repeat, you should have three sponges on the table and one concealed in your right hand.

You now say, "Take all three of the sponges..." With your right hand, pick up the three sponges from the table adding them to the one concealed in that hand.

Press the bunch of sponges tightly held into the spectator's hand, help him to curl his fingers around them, and ask him to hold them securely. Ask him if he knows how many he now has. He should say "three."

Tell him that, if he concentrates, he can feel something growing in his hand and — after a second or two — ask him to open his hand slowly. He will find he has four sponges instead of three.

The routine you have just read is a very basic one; yet, you may be sure that when it is properly presented it goes over well. As any sponge worker can tell you, sponges fascinate laymen and for this reason magic dealers carry several books on the subject. Learning a sponge routine, even a basic one may not come easy, but the efforts are rewarding. Try it!



Note: Your super soft sponge balls perform best when slightly moist. They are a sponge product water is good for them.

In shipping, and because of being left in other tight places, or through constant use, they may lose their shape. Working a few drops of water into your super soft sponge balls makes them truly amazing! Just blowing on your sponge balls is usually enough to bring back their shape.