David's Trick

Here's a trick from magician David Copperfield that you can perform yourself. It will take some practice, but with some work on your part, you can amaze your friends with this one!

What you need:

- A pen, pencil, chopstick or any long, thin object
- An opaque handkerchief about 18 inches square

The illusion:

The magician displays a pocket handkerchief which he drapes over his left fist. The center of the hanky is directly over his thumb, and he pokes it down into his fist, creating a well. He takes a pen and inserts it into the well, then mysteriously shoves it right through the center of the hanky. The handkerchief is held up to show that there is no hole in the center.

How to perform this illusion:

① Hold your left hand in front of you and close it into a fist. Turn the fist so that the side with your thumb and first finger is upward, and the hole leading inside your closed finger is on top.

② Open the handkerchief with your right hand and lay it over your fist so the center of the hanky is directly over the hole in the top of your fist.

③ Curl your right fingers into a loose fist, and extend your right hand directly over your left hand and insert your extended first finger into the hole, pushing the handkerchief inside and creating a well.

④ Open your left fingers a little bit. The audience cannot see this, or what follows, because it is hidden by the handkerchief. Uncurl your right second finger so it moves up against the part of the handkerchief beside your left thumb, and then pushes that cloth inside your left fingers. This creates a passageway or channel through the center of the hanky.

⑤ Loosely close your left fingers again, then withdraw your right fist and second fingers from inside your left fist. The channel through the handkerchief you have just created with your right second finger is easily seen if you look at the top of your fist. You must keep the top of your fist tilted toward you so the people in the audience cannot see the channel.

⑥ Pick up the pen with your right hand and insert the tip into the channel in the handkerchief. The audience thinks you are putting the pen into the center of the handkerchief.

⑦ Now you have a choice. You can either let go of the pen with your right hand so it just falls through the center of the handkerchief and drops onto the table or floor, or you can close your left fingers and grasp the pen through the handkerchief. That frees your right hand, which can then reach under the handkerchief, grabs the lower end of the pen, and pull it downward. Bring your right hand out from beneath the handkerchief holding the pen.

⑧ Place the pen aside and grasp a corner of the handkerchief with your right hand. Whip the hanky away from your left hand, destroying the evidence. You may now display both sides of the handkerchief to show that it has not been damaged even though the pen apparently passed through the center. Wow! That was cool!

IT'S MAGIC!

Adapted with permission from www.davidcopperfield.com.