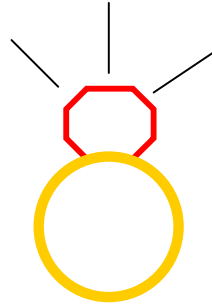


"The Changing Ring" by Marcus Hill



Effect

The magician explains how his girlfriend (soon to be his fiancé) wanted a nice engagement ring; "a lovely solitaire diamond, one that everyone will admire" she had told him. He tells the audience how his attempt earlier that day to conjure up a 'big rock' for his fiancé had gone terribly wrong! Upon opening the ring box, the audience laugh as the magician shows them how he *really had* conjured up a ring with a *big rock* on it, by mistake! Trying to make amends, the magician calls on the audience to help. He drapes a silk hanky across the ring box and then asks everyone to think of a lovely solitaire diamond engagement ring. Upon opening the box again, the rock has turned into the real thing; a lovely solitaire diamond engagement ring! The magician pauses and, as an afterthought (because he says he "doesn't want to take any chances" that his girlfriend will be disappointed,) he waves his magic wand over the ring and it turns into a **HUGE** diamond ring instead!

How you set it up

You will need the following:

- One engagement type ring band with a small rock or pebble glued to it. I picked a fairly boring looking stone with a flat base (the more uninspiring and rock like the better,) out of the garden, and super-glued it to the ring.
- One engagement type ring band with a solitaire 'diamond' (I bought a cubic zirconia and glued it to a cheap ring, or you could use a dress ring, as long as it *looks like* a diamond!)
- One engagement type ring band with a HUGE diamond type stone glued to it. (Note: Being of limited financial means, I took the stopper off an old decanter bottle and sawed the diamond looking head off it and glued it to a ring) (Note all ring bands must be identical.)
- Two identical ring boxes (I bought these from my local jeweller. The boxes are dark blue with blue velvet interior.)
- One silk hanky prepared thus: get two identical dark coloured silk hanky's approximately 14" square. Obtain some pipe cleaners and bend and entwine them so they form a square, slightly bigger in shape than the top of the ring box. Sew the square frame into the exact centre of one of the silks. Lay the identical silk over the frame and sew the two hanky's together all the way round the outside, or you could use glue (I actually used a product called "Wonderweb" bought at a local supermarket which is used for hemming trouser turn ups, which you simply put between the two sides of fabric and iron together.) Thus, you have a hanky with a concealed square frame in the middle (fig 1.)
- One small tray with the second identical ring box glued exactly in the middle of it (fig 2.)
- A servante at the back of your table with some soft padding in it, for example a loosely crumpled handkerchief to dull the sound of an object being dropped into it.

Before your performance, have the tray, with the box glued to its centre AND the small diamond type solitaire inside, standing leaning on one leg of your table, on the floor to your side, base of the tray facing the audience. Have the ring box with the 'stone ring' inside sat in front of you on the table. Have the HUGE solitaire in your LEFT jacket pocket with a small wand in your RIGHT jacket pocket and you are ready to make some magic happen.

How you perform the effect

Step 1.

Pick up the ring box which is on the table in front of you and show the 'rock ring.' The audience will laugh as you tell them your earlier attempt to conjure up a suitable engagement ring went horribly wrong ("I did exactly what my fiancé asked for and I did some magic to conjure up a 'big rock' for her. The only problem is that my magic went wrong as you can see!") After showing the ring with the rock on it close the box again with the ring in it and set it back down on the table.

Step 2.

Drape the silk hanky over the box so the metal frame sits exactly over the top of the box.

Step 3.

Pick up the ring box from the table, gripping the metal frame and the box as you do so. Move your hand over the back of the table and allow the ring box to fall into the servante, whilst retaining your grip on the metal frame (which keeps the shape of the box and maintains the illusion that you still hold the box.) (NB: I take no credit for this well established method of vanishing a small object! See for example "Successful conjuring" C. Arthur Pearson 1951, p62.) The loosely crumpled handkerchief in the servante will ensure there is no sound as the box is dropped in.

Step 4.

Whilst still holding the silk hanky in your right hand (gripping the metal frame and looking like you are carrying the ring box), bend down to your left and pick up the tray. You can easily lift the tray, with the base of the tray facing your audience, so hiding the second ring box glued to its centre. Bring your right hand with the hanky (supposedly carrying the first ring box) down over the top of the tray and turn the tray to the horizontal, allow the hanky to settle over the ring box which is glued to the centre of the tray. In one smooth movement it simply looks like you have placed the original ring box onto the middle of the tray.

Step 5.

After enlisting the help of your audience in imagining a beautiful solitaire diamond engagement ring, pull away the hanky from the top of the (second) ring box. The audience will think this is the original ring box.

Step 6.

Open the box and to your audiences surprise the stone ring has transformed into a solitaire 'diamond' ring.

Step 7.

Take the solitaire ring out of the ring box, leaving the ring box and the tray on the table. Take the ring forward in your right hand to show it at arms length to the front row of your audience, in so doing steal the HUGE 'solitaire' ring from your left jacket pocket with your left hand.

Step 8.

As an afterthought, you say that you "don't want to take any chances" that the ring will please your girlfriend. Pretend to put the small ring into your left hand (which now conceals the HUGE solitaire ring) whilst actually retaining it in your right hand (performing a type of shuttle pass) saying you need your magic wand.

Step 9.

Immediately go to your right pocket for your wand with your right hand. Dump the small 'solitaire' into the pocket and bring out your wand.

Step 10.

After one final piece of 'magic' you can then show that the solitaire ring has transformed into a HUGE solitaire ring in your left hand.

Fig 1. Hanky with square wire frame (the same size as ring box) sewn into it

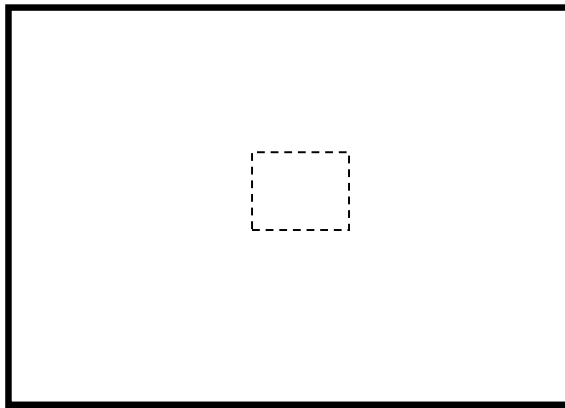


Fig 2. Tray with ring box glued to the centre

