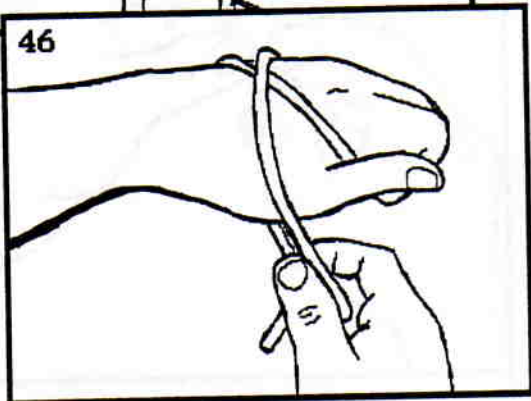


**Fig. 45.** Now, as you grab the end of the string that is hanging out the other side of the LH, turn the LH palm slightly to the right and release your hold on the ring allowing it to slip out of the hand and fall into the RH. The RH closes around the ring and the string in one motion as it picks up the end of the string and wraps it over the top of the LH. Finish your sentence, "...you could say that the hand is *IN* the string."



**Fig. 46.** The string is criss-crossed over the back of the LH and the ends hang down below the hand. Grab the ends of the string (with the ring palmed in the hand) and offer them to the person on your left saying, "Please hold the ends of the string," While the spectator is reaching for the ends of the string, transfer the ring palmed in the RH onto a finger of the RH. "...so that the only way that the ring could come off of the string is by passing through the middle..." As these last words are said, pull your hand out of the loop of string, causing it to untwist from around your hand, keeping a grip on just the middle of the string. "...just like this!" Feign pulling

the ring off, leaving the spectator holding the string. (Surprise #1) Start to say, "There it is!" But stop short as you open your hand to show that the ring is gone. (Surprise #2) Pause. Let the effect register. Then hold up your RH, as if you just noticed, and say, "Oh, there it is!" (Surprise #3)

This is very shocking to people, because you were way ahead of them in removing the ring. They think that it is trapped in your hand long after it has been removed. This would be a good spot do some type of a ring-flight to your key-chain or wherever. All the attention is focused on the LH, so you've got plenty of time.

That ends the main routine. Usually I end the trick there. But, if the audience is especially responsive and if attention hasn't been totally dissipated, I continue with one or two "throw-aways" to give a couple small jolts for good measure.

Or another thing that sometimes motivates me to toss in these last two tricks is a troublesome spectator. There are some people that think getting fooled is an insult. So after every trick they'll prove that they weren't fooled by saying something like, "I saw you put it in your other hand."

It's probably best just not to respond to these types of people, but I can't resist. I have to take up the challenge. I guess it's childish, but I want to win! So it is those types of people that I sometimes aim these last two zingers at.