

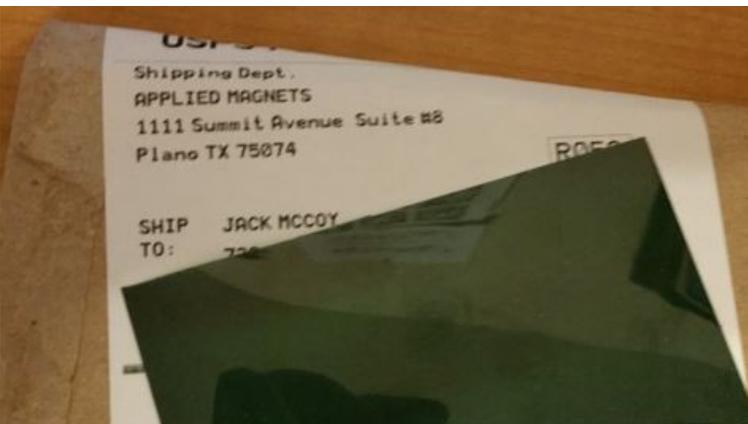
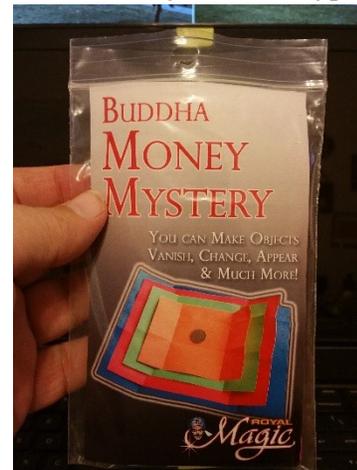
Buddha's Mental Papers - Jack E. McCoy, 'Magic of an Optical Illusion Nerd'

While discussing uses for the film that shows the magnetic field (used often in modern mentalism pads and impression devices) an idea came to me. I bought 2 'Buddha Money Mystery' by Royal Magic, cut a piece off one and glued it to another with a piece of magnetic field film also attached. This creates a secret flap that allows you to obtain written information, written by a spectator and hidden within the center piece of paper. So, in conclusion, as per the standard Buddha paper illusion not only is the paper vanished but you reveal what's written on it, a double whammy.

Construction: For this particular method, you will need 2 of the 'Buddha Money Mystery' by Royal Magic props, usually about \$5 each. Of course, this will work with any brand or type, just make the necessary adjustments, the fundamental principle is the same for all. I do recommend Royal Magic's because the dimensions of the papers and folds work perfectly with those of Post-Its.

In addition to the 2 Buddha sets you'll also need:

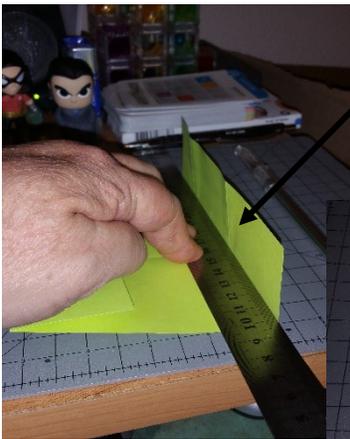
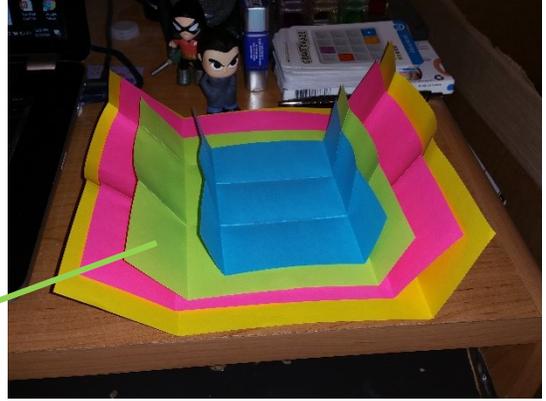
- A. Some rubber cement
- B. A piece of magnet field film, approx. 2" X 3 1/2" which can be found on Amazon, science supply shops, and various other places. I purchased my sheet from a semi-local shop. I think it came in a 6" X 6" sheet. It can be cut easily with scissors or a razor knife and straight edge.



- C. In addition to this you will need a special Sharpie or similar marker. This marker has a tiny magnet in the felt tip. It can be purchased at magic retailers, Promystic sells some and even a 'kit' for making your own at www.promystic.com
- D. Some 'Post it Notes' or similar memo sheets that have a sticky portion that sticks it to a surface.

Assembly: The colors of my two sets are, from the largest sheet to the smallest: yellow, pink, green, blue. We will be using a green sheet (2nd smallest sheet) from the extra magic set of Buddha papers. I know it ruins that entire set but that's the price we must pay sometimes.

Whatever your set looks like, this is the sheet that will be gimmicked, it's the one which the smallest sheet is folded inside during performance.



1. Raise a 'wing' up 90 degrees and butt a straight edge against it. Lower the wing then cut it off. Repeat with the other side. Discard the 2 cut-off pieces. This method ensures you cut exactly on the line, but do it however you like of course. Use scissors if that's all you have, just be accurate.

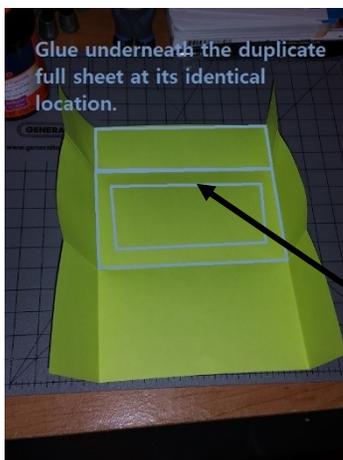
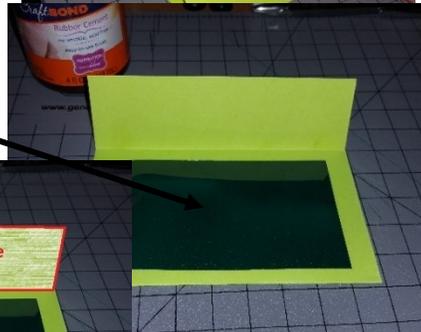


2. Fold the longer side to the middle.



3. Rubber cement the magnetic film to the doubled part.

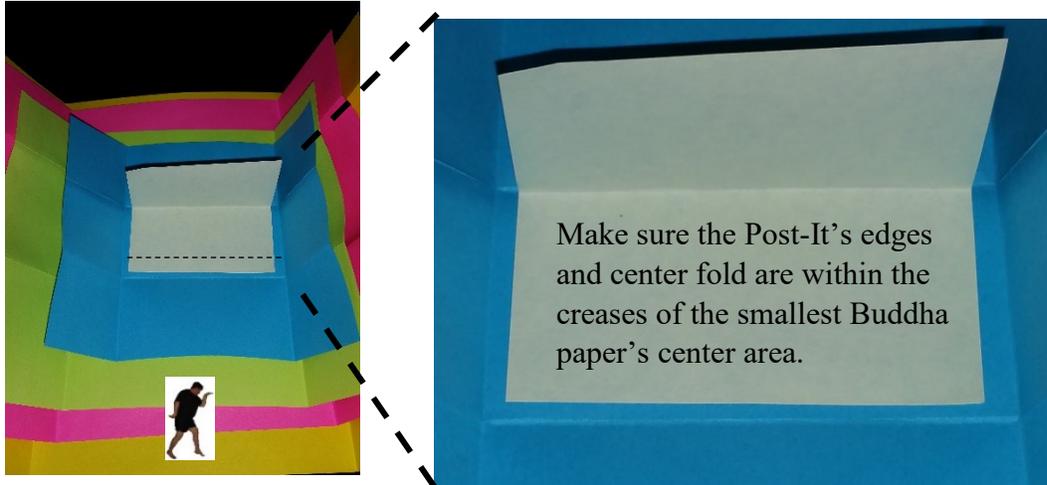
4. Apply rubber cement to the small portion.



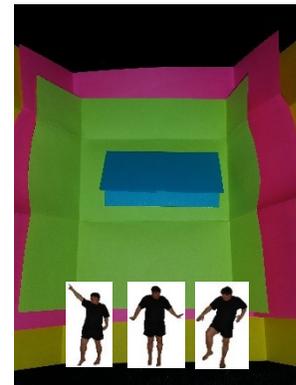
5. Attach the gimmick to the underside of the identical sheet, making sure all edges are perfectly aligned. Be as accurate as possible.

Performance(s):

Stick a Post-It note in the center area of the innermost paper and fold it in half. Make sure you stick it just a little inside from the next paper's fold that's nearby and the fold is inside the furthest seam (ill. 1), so it doesn't interfere with the closing of the Buddha paper.

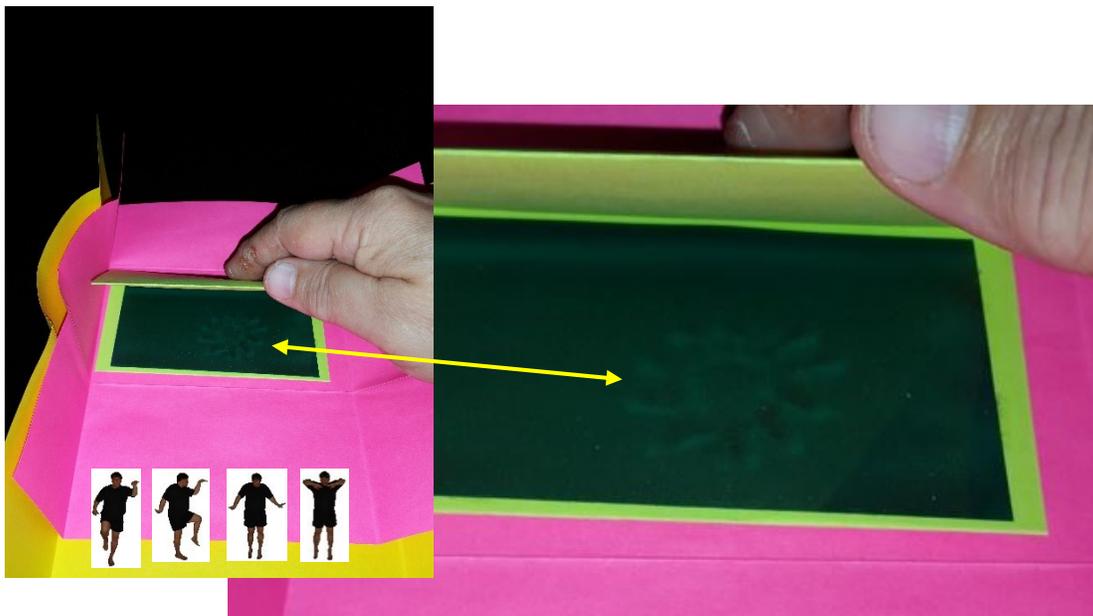


Hand her the Sharpie. Tell her you're going to look away and when you do, she is to draw something on the Post-It Note. While explaining this, with the index, outline the rectangle area that's against the paper. Tell her that, when she's done fold it closed then close the inside Buddha paper as well (ill. 2 & 3)

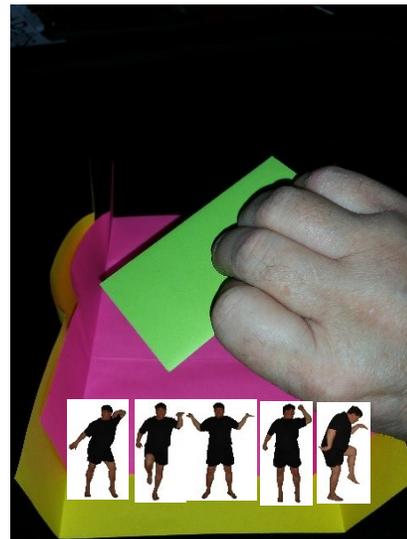


Turn back, facing her, and say *"There's no way I could know what you've drawn on the Post-It that's folded inside many several layers of paper"* During this time pick up the folded Buddha paper and rotate the hand, showing the other side, then rotate back and place it back down. Fold the next Buddha paper (the gimmicked piece) around it, thus trapping the everything deeper inside more layers of paper. You are now in a most wonderful moment. You now have access to what that person drew on the paper. If you reach down with your right hand and grasp that folded Buddha paper and raise its back end up, the magnetic field film will come into view which has the drawing on it, thanks to the magnet in the tip of the Sharpie! The mostly folded wings of the 2 larger Buddha papers provide cover from the left and the right hand blocks the view from the right (ill. 4). The image will be upside down, I tried adjusting the handling to remedy this but it always disrupted the fluidness of the routine and always required rotating a piece around at some point which just doesn't look right. Therefore, I've opted for the less satisfying inverted glimpse

requirement that's necessary here. It's no big deal however since the image should be quite visible. Think upon it and let me know your ideas should you have one.



In performance point or tap the front side and talk about how many layers her writing is now inside. Lay it back down then dig your right fingers around the front, thumb moving onto the top, then pinch the Buddha packet, lift it off the open sheets by its front end first then rotate the hand to show the back side (ill. 5). Because of the construction and location of the gimmick everything looks perfectly normal from the spectator's end. Rotate back and place the paper back into the middle of the opened sheets. Continue per Buddha papers routine, closing inside the next paper, secretly flipping it over as well. Close inside the largest Buddha paper. Snap your finger, and open all the sheets to show the Post-It has vanished!



Reveal her drawing by saying something to the effect of *"It's pretty amazing how your picture vanished, isn't it? It's more amazing that I know you drew a _____!"*, describing the drawing to them. Reveal it while you're closing everything up and putting away or even at the very end as you're walking away. Magicians will suspect magnetic impression but even they won't know when you glimpsed it. Another thing to do with magicians is have them write a farm animal on the Post-It. Tell them you will help their farm animal escape. When it's vanished, they'll be thinking you simply did a farm routine with the Buddha papers and most know the secret to it or own it already. So, so they'll be nice and compliment you on the farm idea, probably, and be totally unarmed. Now tell them what animal they chose, straight up, right at them. Enjoy their expression(s). You just bopped their magical brains!

More: Now that you understand the fundamentals of the method, let's elaborate a little. Another idea is to let the spectator, after they write on the Post-It, to close all the Buddha papers while you back is turned. Turn back around and explain that you're trying to strengthen your mental cognition. Look at the closed Buddha package, pretend to concentrate, then say *"Too much paper is blocking it, I'll eliminate some layers."*, while saying this open the outside Buddha paper. Look at the closed group and pretend to have difficulty, then open the next Buddha paper. This brings the gimmicked paper into view. Glimpse the impression as you tilt it slightly and talk about how you're beginning to see it. Show the bottom side (with the gimmick closed of course) and mention how it's still impossible to see anything through the papers. Put it back down as you say *"I'm going to go out on a limb and take a guess. I think I began seeing an image and don't want to open any further. After all it's still impossible for me to see what you wrote."* This lie enforces the fact you didn't open far enough for any sneaky stuff to take place (Ha Ha, if they only knew!). Close everything up and either do the secret turnover of the 2nd largest paper (for a vanish) or simply put everything away as you reveal what was drawn. That's a strong enough effect that a vanish isn't necessary, but it's up to you on the direction you take it. Remember, the prop can be used as a basic Buddha paper effect, the gimmick doesn't interfere with that, so I simply expanded the prop where a mentalism effect is possible. It may cost some money to get it together (the magnetic marker is the most expensive piece).

To erase the image run a magnet, slightly elevated, across the film, which disrupts the iron filaments inside the sheet and clears the image. You're ready to go again!

The impression can also be glimpsed while holding the gimmicked paper in the right hand. This is an idea I learned from a Larry White trick. Notice in images 6, 7, & 8 that the hand is holding it from above, with the fingers wrapped around the right side. By relaxing them slightly the flap will open. The timing on this is: You pick up the gimmicked paper, talk about how both sides are opaque, flashing the bottom side as well. Now, hovering that hand at the location pretty much unchanged, turn the body down towards the open papers on the table, the right arm naturally swinging slightly that way as well. In a fluid motion reach down with your left hand and with fingers relaxed and opened like a intoxicated 5-legged spider, tap the middle area of the tabled papers as you talk about how they make it even more impossible. The right hand should be comfortably just off from the middle and you do your glimpse then. You can even look right at it, all attention will be on the table and your hand is in the general vicinity. Place the packet in the middle and close all up. The rest is up to you.

