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Martin Gardner's Science Magic: Tricks And Puzzles (Dover Magic Books)



Synopsis

Make an eggshell turn a somersault, spin a coin so that it lands on "heads," teach a bear to climb a string, and perform other acts of scientific wizardry! Martin Gardner, the master of mathematical puzzles, shares more than 80 of his finest magic tricks, teaching children and adults the scientific properties behind water, air, fire, heat, motion, gravity, inertia, friction, electricity, magnetism, sound, and light. Fun and fascinating, the simple maneuvers require only basic everyday props, and those requiring matches, knives, boiling water, and other tricky items are marked with a symbol that lets kids know they'll need assistance from an adult. Helpful drawings illustrate each stunt.

Book Information

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Age Range: 9 and up

Grade Level: 4 and up

Customer Reviews

Martin Gardner was a renowned author who published over 70 books on subjects from science and math to poetry and religion. He also had a lifelong passion for magic tricks and puzzles. Well known for his mathematical games column in *Scientific American* and his "Trick of the Month" in *Physics Teacher* magazine, Gardner attracted a loyal following with his intelligence, wit, and imagination. *Martin Gardner: A Remembrance* The worldwide mathematical community was saddened by the death of Martin Gardner on May 22, 2010. Martin was 95 years old when he died, and had written 70 or 80 books during his long lifetime as an author. Martin's first Dover books were published in 1956 and 1957: *Mathematics, Magic and Mystery*, one of the first popular books on the

intellectual excitement of mathematics to reach a wide audience, and *Fads and Fallacies in the Name of Science*, certainly one of the first popular books to cast a devastatingly skeptical eye on the claims of pseudoscience and the many guises in which the modern world has given rise to it. Both of these pioneering books are still in print with Dover today along with more than a dozen other titles of Martin's books. They run the gamut from his elementary *Codes, Ciphers and Secret Writing*, which has been enjoyed by generations of younger readers since the 1980s, to the more demanding *The New Ambidextrous Universe: Symmetry and Asymmetry from Mirror Reflections to Superstrings*, which Dover published in its final revised form in 2005. To those of us who have been associated with Dover for a long time, however, Martin was more than an author, albeit a remarkably popular and successful one. As a member of the small group of long-time advisors and consultants, which included NYU's Morris Kline in mathematics, Harvard's I. Bernard Cohen in the history of science, and MIT's J. P. Den Hartog in engineering, Martin's advice and editorial suggestions in the formative 1950s helped to define the Dover publishing program and give it the point of view which — despite many changes, new directions, and the consequences of evolution — continues to be operative today. In the Author's Own Words: "Politicians, real-estate agents, used-car salesmen, and advertising copy-writers are expected to stretch facts in self-serving directions, but scientists who falsify their results are regarded by their peers as committing an inexcusable crime. Yet the sad fact is that the history of science swarms with cases of outright fakery and instances of scientists who unconsciously distorted their work by seeing it through lenses of passionately held beliefs." "A surprising proportion of mathematicians are accomplished musicians. Is it because music and mathematics share patterns that are beautiful?"

— Martin Gardner

I am a high school physics teacher and I always put on a science magic show toward the end of the year. This book is a well written collection of science magic stunts, all based on some principles of physics or chemistry. As such, I have found it to be a tremendous resource in finding new fun stunts, tricks or demos to perform for the students which will grab their attention, excite their curiosity, and teach them basic principles of physics or chemistry. It is a valuable asset for any physical science, chemistry or physics teacher, and I highly recommend it as a great resource to help make science fun and motivate the students to learn. It can be used for a science magic show or for daily demos to introduce each class. You will also learn from many of these clever science magic stunts.

There are interesting things here, and the book didn't cost too much, so I'm not unhappy. But there's very little usable material for actual magic tricks. Most of what's here demonstrates some principle or other, and once you see it happen, you know exactly how and why. So this might be useful for a science club or something, but not so much for a magic act.

... or if I were into bar bets! As it is, I was thrilled and fascinated just to read them. Sometimes, I even laughed out loud at their cleverness. Martin Gardner was exquisitely clear in his explanations.

I am over 13 years old, however, I loved doing magic as a young boy and this is just the sort of beginners magic book I would have liked. The tricks and demonstrations use common household items and apparatus easily constructed. The explanations are easy to understand and most use scientific thinking; a great way to get youngsters interested in their world.

Many simple scientific principles can be taught best in the form of amazing demonstrations...and combining Science and Magic accomplishes this easily...imagine making your own TV 3-D Glasses...that make ANY TV a 3D TV! Martin Gardner's book is full of great tricks and will make a great gift to the budding scientist OR budding magician of any age.

some of the tricks are very simplistic

Great science demonstration book. My 4 year old and I do a couple every so often. One evening she specifically asked me to get the "experience" book :) All the apparatus are household items.

This is OK if you are enticing young students to have an interest in science. It did not give me many jump off points to expand into science fair ideas.

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