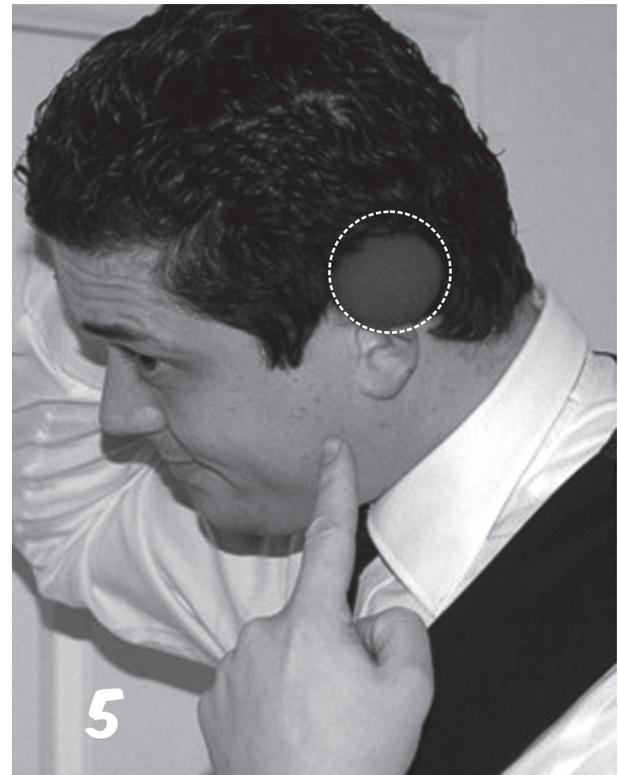


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Now you are one ahead and you can vanish the ball in your hands and look around and wait for the children to point it out, (photo 5).

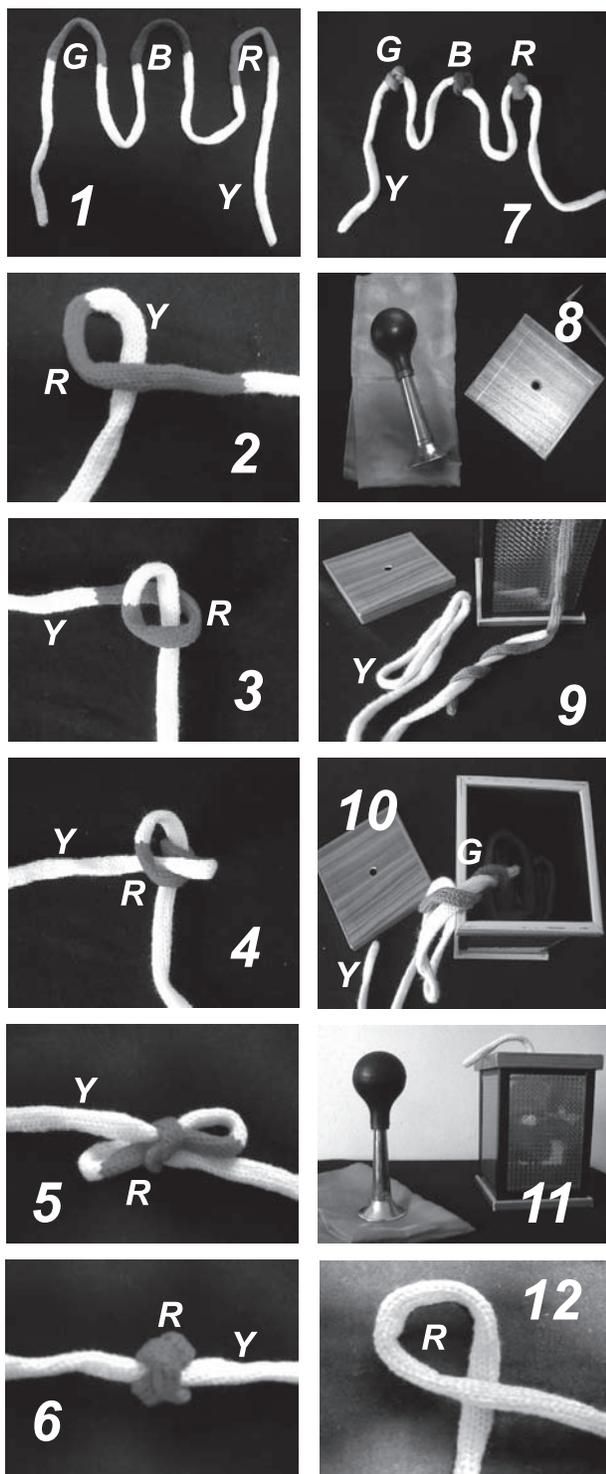
When you turn your head to remove the ball, you can secretly place the other ball in your hand behind the other ear while turning your head to the other side.

Jazz around with this: you will have a lot of fun and so will the children!

**Key:**

G = Green. R = Red.

B = Blue. Y = Yellow.



**Set Up:**

Tie the red, green and blue sections of the long rope into shoelace knots and pull them tight so that each coloured section resembles a small knot on the yellow rope (see photographs 2-7 for details). Place this in one side of the switching box and close the flap to hide it completely.

In the other side of the box you put the four coloured ropes. They are placed in one at a time in the following order: blue, red, green and the yellow one on top. If you intertwine the ends of the ropes together it will ensure that, when you pull one rope out the next one will pop up (see photographs 9-10 for details). Put the lid on the box and with the silk square and horn to hand you are ready to perform.

**Working and Presentation:**

**“Boys and girls I brought with me today a very special blue box with a brown lid (or whatever colours you are using) which I’m told catches invisible objects that get lost. I am sure it is very useful, although I have never found a use for it so I just keep things inside it. Today, I have just one thing in the box, but it is not very interesting so I doubt if you want to see it.”** The children will insist on seeing what is in the box so you place it on your table, lift the lid and remove the piece of yellow rope. The next rope in the sequence, the green one, will pop into view and you pretend not to see it as you replace the lid, trapping it in view of the audience.

**“It’s just a piece of yellow stretchy rope and not really very interesting.”** Most of the children will be trying to tell you that there is another piece of rope in the box, but you keep insisting there is nothing else in the box. When you eventually look at the box, you are surprised to see a green rope sticking out under the lid. You remove this rope just like the yellow one, trapping the red one in the same way as you say. **“I had just two things in the box: a piece of yellow stretchy rope and a piece of green stretchy rope, but nothing else.”**

Again the children will be telling you there is another rope in the box, and, when you look around, you are once more surprised at the sight of a piece of red rope trapped under the lid. You remove this rope just like the green one, trapping the blue one in the same way as you say, **“I had just three things in the box: a piece of yellow stretchy rope, a piece of green stretchy rope and a piece of red stretchy rope, but nothing else.”** This time when you look around, you appear to be annoyed that there is another rope sticking out of the box. You remove the blue rope and pick up the box to show that there is nothing else inside as you continue. **“I had just four things in the box: a piece of yellow stretchy rope, a piece of green stretchy rope, a piece of red stretchy rope and a piece of blue stretchy rope, but definitely nothing else”.**

You place the box on your table along with the green, red



**JOAQUIN KOTKIN**

Joaquin Kotkin, aka The Half-Beard Magician, is originally from Mexico City, and is one of the busiest magicians in Mexico. He has been a children's entertainer since he was ten years old, and a magician since he was four, so he has had the time to develop in different branches of magic, as an illusionist, a corporate magician, a cruise ship magician, a consultant on movies and commercials, an escape artist, a bizarre magician, a magic collector, and T.V. performer. He has created several magical effects such as *The Endoscard*, *The Orange Lemon Egg Parakeet (with a kitchen blender)*, and *The Scorpion Illusion*, which David Copperfield bought for his world tour.  
 email: mediabarba@gmail.com web: www.kotkin.com

# The Bad Luck Umbrella

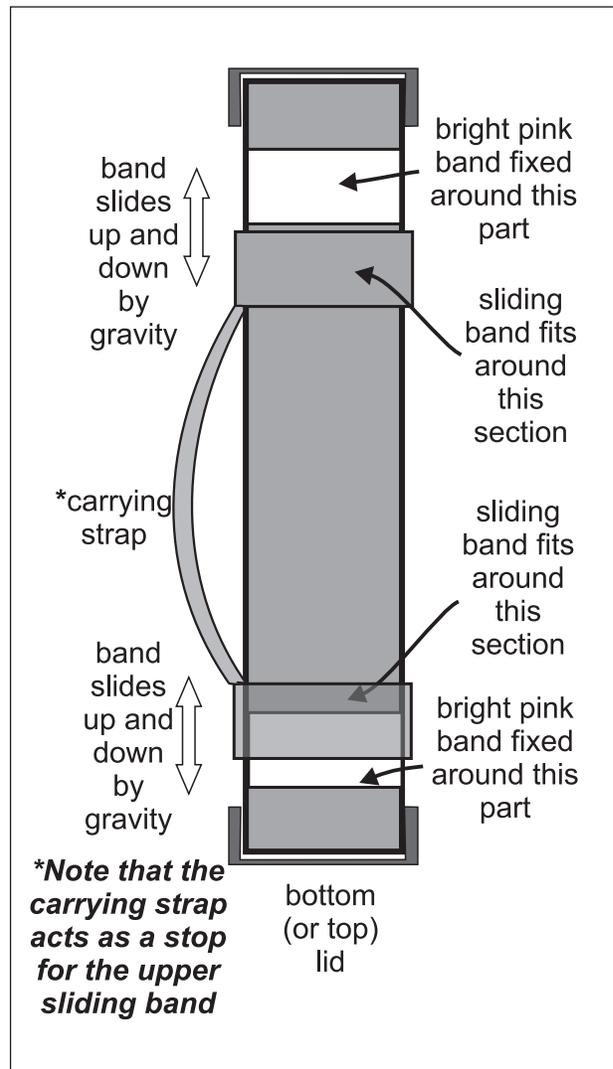
**Effect:**

*The Mutilated Parasol* is a classic effect of magic: an umbrella is shown and put aside. Some coloured ribbons or silks are also shown and put into a bag. Through a comedy of errors, the ribbons find themselves attached to a skeleton of the umbrella, while the umbrella cover appears in the bag.

The children help to put matters right, and the umbrella is restored at the end. Most methods require a device to switch umbrellas (as, indeed, does this routine) but the method here is beautifully disguised.

**Requirements:**

A set of 8 differently coloured ribbons; two umbrellas: remove the cover from one of the umbrellas and glue an identical set of ribbons to the ends of the skeleton umbrella; a *Change Bag* of any kind, with the umbrella cover in one of its compartments. Most importantly, you need Joaquin Kotkin's *Niffon Change Tube*, which is made as follows:



**DAVID TOMKINS**

David Tomkins is a Member of The Inner Magic Circle with Gold Star. He turned full time professional straight from school at the age of sixteen and has run a successful children's and family entertainment business ever since. Over the years, David has created many original tricks and routines for children. The following is one of his latest!

He has lectured on many of these creations to various magical societies and conventions up and down the country. His speciality is ventriloquism, which is also demonstrated in his lectures. David was a UK prize winner in the Children's Entertainer Intercontinental Championships Competition at Blackpool.

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## Do As I Do Sponge Boxes

The effect is performed by the performer and the help of either your own assistant, or a suitable child from the audience – maybe the birthday girl/boy.

**Effect:**

Two boxes are displayed on your table: one is red; the other is blue. You explain to a helper that you are going to have a little competition to see who can do the best magic trick. The red box is yours (the performer) and the blue box is for your helper. You show both boxes empty, then place them back on the table.

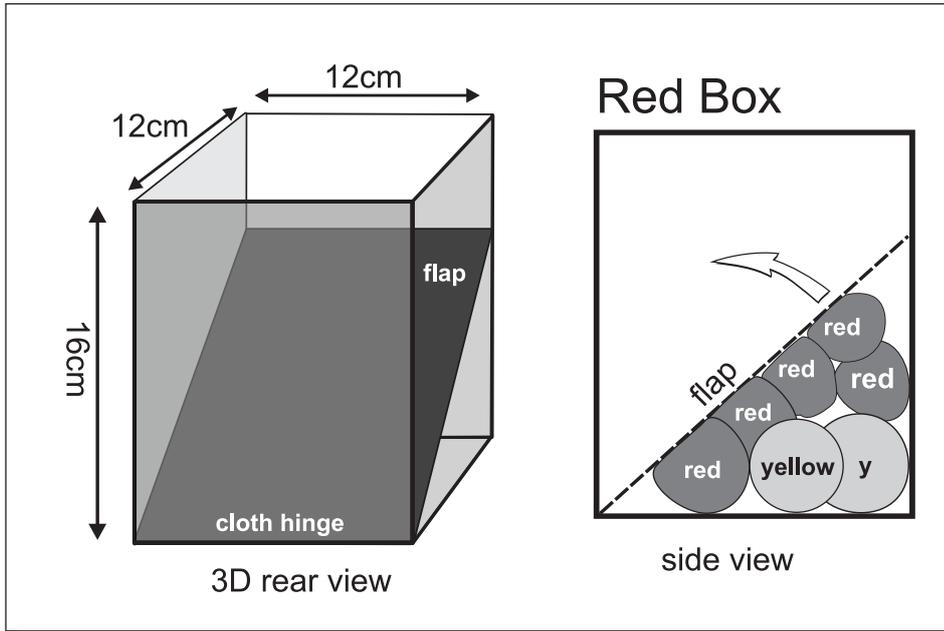
You wave your hand over the red box, reach inside and produce (say) a red 2" sponge ball (can be any colour). Your helper waves his hand over the blue box, reaches in himself and takes out a matching 2" sponge ball. Surprised, you exclaim that you're going to do it again, because your helper isn't as clever (?) as you are!

The boxes are shown empty. Waving your hand over the red box, you produce another red 2" sponge ball. Your helper is challenged to do the same. He waves his hand over the blue, reaches in again and takes out another ball.

***Do As I Do Sponge Boxes***

Two boxes are displayed on your table: one is red, the other is blue. You explain to a helper that you are going to have a little competition to see who can do the best magic trick with sponge balls.

Despite your best magic your helper produces more sponge balls!



**Your Production**  
 You pretend to be very annoyed and say you'll do it again, but, this time, your helper won't be able to magic a third ball! The boxes are again shown empty. A wave of your hand over the red box, a huge smile and another sponge ball is produced.

But your helper waves his hand over the blue box, reaches in and out comes his third ball.

You pretend to be very annoyed and say you'll do it again, but, this time, your helper won't be able to magic a third ball! The boxes are again shown empty. A wave of your hand over the red box, a huge smile and another sponge ball is produced. Your helper waves his hand over the blue box, reaches in and out comes his third ball. (Up until now, all the sponge balls have been 2" in size and the same colour.)

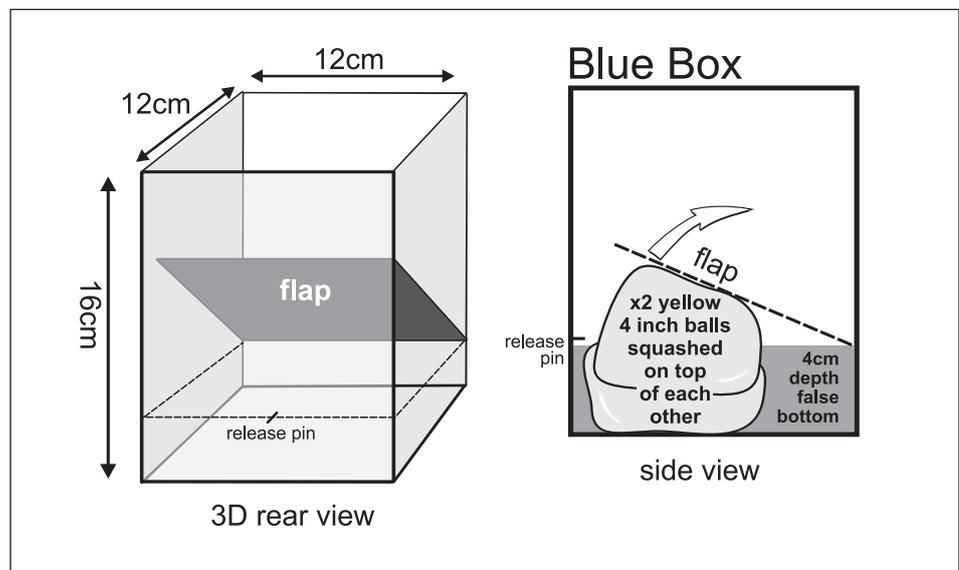
up, and tipped over towards the child. He reaches in himself and removes two large 4" yellow sponge balls!!

**Requirements:**

Six 2" red sponge balls; two 2" yellow sponge balls; two 4" yellow sponge balls; two boxes identical in size (16cm high and 12cm square.) These can be constructed either in strong cardboard, or in plywood or similar. However, both boxes are faked in different ways.

Exasperated, you show both boxes empty for the last time, take out your magic wand, wave it over the red box, look all excited and remove two 2" YELLOW sponge balls! With a look of immense satisfaction, the wand is handed to the helper, saying, "Go on, beat that!" The helper waves the wand over the blue box. The blue box is picked

One is basically a flap box, but the flap itself is hinged along one of the bottom edges, not centrally as is usual. The second box has a false bottom. The base hinges up, released by a wire clip from underneath the box.



**Helper's Production**  
 With a look of immense satisfaction, the wand is handed to the helper, saying, "Go on, beat that!" The helper waves the wand over the blue box. The blue box is picked up, and tipped over towards the child. He reaches in himself and removes two large 4" yellow sponge balls!!