



The Servante

Official Newsletter of the Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138 Alliance of Illusionists

Volume 2026 - Number 9 - September 2026
Monthly Club Meeting - Thursday September 24, 2026 - 7:00 pm
Illusion Warehouse - 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, Texas
Three Blocks North of Seminary Drive

The Thursday September 24 Monthly Club Meeting will be a Magic Swap Meet where club members and guests can bring gently used magic tricks and books to sell and trade. There is no cost to sell or attend the meeting. On a first-come basis, the tables in the Illusion Warehouse party room may be used free of charge. Sellers are urged to bring additional folding tables as per their personal preferences. As usual, the meeting will start promptly at 7:00 pm.



The Illusion Warehouse is conveniently located at 3917 McCart Avenue, about three blocks north of Seminary Drive. If needed, additional parking is located across the street in the school parking lot. Please note that the Executive Committee will meet at 6:00 pm at the Illusion Warehouse immediately prior to the monthly club meeting. All officers should be in attendance and all members in good standing (2026 dues-paid-up members) may attend as well. Visitors may not attend Executive Committee Meetings.



SAM ASSEMBLY 138 AND AOI TO POSSIBLY HOST THE 2029 TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF MAGICIANS CONVENTION

The SAM Assembly 138 and the Alliance of Illusionists have submitted a bid to the TAOM Board of Directors to host the 2029 convention of the Texas Association of Magicians. At the upcoming spring 2027 mid-year meeting of the TAOM, no doubt the board will consider the SAM Assembly 138 and Alliance of Illusionists request.



The next steps are to determine a hotel convention location. With that in mind, on Monday July 27, Gary Poe, Lonnie Olander, and Bruce Chadwick previewed the DoubleTree by Hilton Fort Worth South Hotel and Conference Center, 100 Altamesa Blvd, Fort Worth during their "Christmas in July" open house. All officers agreed that the hotel would be an excellent choice for the club to host an upcoming Texas Association of Magicians convention. Now all the club has to do is to choose leadership and start planning! It promises to be a great event during Labor Day Weekend 2029!

AUGUST MONTHLY CLUB MEETING MINUTES

The Thursday August 20, 2026 monthly club meeting of the SAM Assembly 138 and the Alliance of Illusionists was a Magician's Roundtable and Potluck-Style Magic Jam Session! Members and guests brought finger foods of their choice to share, along with their favorite magic effects, tricks, props, or gadgets that they were working on. This was a great opportunity for magicians to perform material, exchange creative ideas, and receive constructive feedback from their fellow magicians.

Whether members were polishing an existing routine, developing a new effect, or simply looking for inspiration, the event was an enjoyable evening of collaboration, learning, and creativity. It was also a wonderful opportunity to experience the camaraderie, fellowship, and shared passion for magic that makes the Fort Worth Assembly so special. The meeting also welcomed Mike Ince and Brad Hathcoat with their new member introductions and induction as the latest members. The meeting was held at 7:00 pm, the Illusion Warehouse magic shop, 3917 McCart Ave, Fort Worth, Texas.



AUGUST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

President Hare Evison called to order the Thursday August 20, 2026 Executive Committee meeting of the SAM Assembly 138 and the Alliance of Illusionists at about 6:00 pm in the Illusion Warehouse stockroom. A quorum of all officers were in attendance including President Hare Evison, Vice President Gary Poe, Secretary Bruce Chadwick, Treasurer Lonnie Olander, Historian Jack McCoy, Member at Large Caleb Westeen, and Sergeant at Arms William Weebo Beaty.

Treasurer Lonnie Olander presented the club's April financial report. The club's previous Operating Account balance was \$2,091.80. Since then the club has received \$915.23 from lecture admissions and FACET book sales. The clubs had one disbursement of \$13.86 for MailChimp, which leaves the clubs with a balance of \$2993.19.

It was agreed that Andrew DeRuiter's \$25 fee that he paid to attend last month's Lance Pierce lecture will be applied to the payment of his 2026 AOI club dues.

The minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting as printed in the August issue of the SERVANTE were approved by acclamation.

Secretary Chadwick reported on the successful sales of the FACETS books that were donated to the clubs by Lance Pierce. A motion was made and agreed that the club will reimburse the Illusion Warehouse \$75 as reimbursement for the work in selling the books.

The agenda for the September monthly club meeting was discussed. Due to the Magistrorum convention starting on our club's regular third Thursday meeting night, the September meeting will be moved to Thursday night September 24. The agenda for the meeting will be the club's annual Swap Meet.

The SAM Assembly 138 and Alliance of Illusionists in Fort Worth has been gifted yet another magic collection, this one from Plano magician Greg London. This collection is mostly high end close-up apparatus worth several hundreds of dollars. Greg's donations will be offered for sale or auction at upcoming magic club meeting. All proceeds from sales of his donation will benefit the education and club activities of SAM 138 and the AOI. The clubs have paid Greg \$25 for the shipment of some of the items to the Illusion Warehouse.

The committee discussed the continual proposed collaboration with the Dallas Magic Club to co-host magic lectures and each club paying half the lecturer's fee. It was recognized that the AOI and Dallas Magic club seem to be having difficulty communicating with each other. With this in mind, Caleb Westeen, who is a member of both the DMC and AOI clubs, is working as the point man to help facilitate communication and help find a suitable restaurant meeting location somewhere between Dallas and Fort Worth.

The Executive Committee discussed the possibility that the SAM Assembly 138 and Alliance of Illusionists might host the 2029 Texas Association of Magicians convention. To this end, the clubs drafted a letter and delivered it to the TAOM Board. Also on Monday July 27, Gary Poe, Lonnie Olander, and Bruce Chadwick previewed the DoubleTree by Hilton Fort Worth South Hotel and Conference Center, 100 Altamesa Blvd, Fort Worth during their "Christmas in July" open house. Based upon the three officers report, the Executive Committee agreed that the hotel would be an excellent location for hosting an upcoming Texas Association of Magicians convention.

With no further business, the meeting concluded about 6:54 pm to start the August Magician's Roundtable monthly club meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Bruce Chadwick, Secretary



From the President's Top Hat

Welcome once again, friends and fellow lovers of magic! As we gather beneath the brim of the President's Top Hat, this monthly column continues to celebrate the art, humor, challenges, and unforgettable moments that come with being part of the magical community. Whether you perform on stage, practice behind the scenes, or simply enjoy the wonder of illusion, I hope these reflections inspire you to keep growing in your craft and finding joy in the experience along the way.

Finding Greatness — The Change

Four years ago, I embarked on a journey that would change my life forever.

I decided to follow my heart and leave the island where I was born and raised, hoping to start a family and become more than the person I was. I overcame many challenges, gave up a great job as an electrician, packed up my magic gear, sold many of my tools, said goodbye to good friends, and headed to Texas in hopes of finding a better future.

Texas has been very good to me.

I have been fortunate to find this magic club, become a prominent member, and now serve as its president. Making that leap, getting out of my comfort zone, and striving for greatness helped get me where I am today.

My goal was simple: follow my heart wherever it would take me.

I knew Texas would give me the opportunity to reach a broader audience with my magic. It also led me to the love of my life, Miss Julie, who has been such an important part of my journey. Without her, I probably would never have achieved the greatness I have today.

Looking Back to Move Forward

When I reflect on my time as a magician on Maui, I realize I was preparing myself for the future without even knowing it.

I performed bar magic, which taught me patience and how to approach people no matter who they were. I worked on stage shows and learned how to prepare for an audience. All of those experiences helped me grow and prepared me for what would eventually happen in Texas.

As I approach what I call the "gates of greatness," I often think about the words of wisdom my father and mentor shared with me:

"Practice doesn't make it perfect, but perfect practice makes you great."

Magicians spend countless hours practicing in their studios and at home. But until you stand in front of an audience and experience their reaction, all that practice is simply preparation for the moments that matter most.

Believing in what you do and becoming the magician is what matters to me.

Over my years here in Texas, I've performed many great shows and learned important lessons that continue to push me forward. For me, greatness isn't necessarily about having the newest trick. It's about finding the effects that work best for me, creating reactions, interacting with my audience, and sharing my art.

I want my audiences to leave knowing that there is more to this world than they could imagine—and as magicians, we can show them that.

Reaching for Greatness

I've achieved many great things in my life, and moving to Texas is certainly one of them. Finding myself again, becoming a family man, and becoming a magician within this community has brought me tremendous joy. I hope that joy comes through in my performances.

Maybe it really was just my time to shine.

I look forward to many more years of honing my craft, becoming better, overcoming the boundaries that once held me back, and striving to become the best magician—and the best person—I can be.

For anyone who needs a little encouragement, I'll leave you with this:

Get out of your comfort zone. Follow your heart. Reach for greatness.

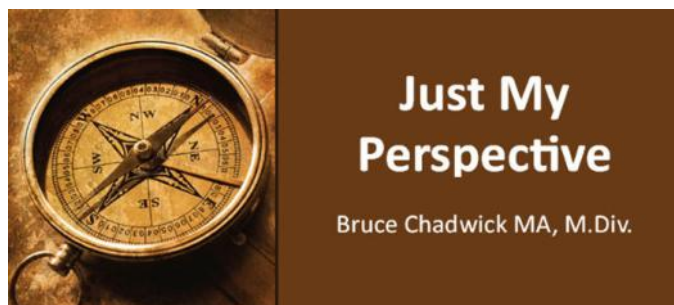
You may be surprised at where it takes you.

Keep the magic alive!

— Hare Evison

President, Bruce Chadwick S.A.M. Assembly 138

Alliance of Illusionists Magic Club



CREATIVITY IS MAGIC

Like for most business endeavors, hobbies, and professions, one of the keys that progresses magic is creativity. All art forms require it, and magic couldn't progress without it. But where does creativity come from? How is it generated? Why is it that one performer may seem to be more creative than another?

Tons of literature have been written about the creative process. Almost always however, central to that process is the friendship that comes from association, input, and connection with other people. None of us, and I mean none of us in magic, would be where we are today without the creativity of others.

If anything, friendships often provide avenues for innovation. Fellow magicians inspire us. We as magicians stand on the shoulders of our predecessors. Our art tends to be a descendant and progression of yesterday's insight.

Some would argue that creativity should be an entity in and of itself, and that true creativity should stand alone without the influence of others. This may sound proper, but rarely is this true. All creativity must have a mechanism that drives it as a functional force, and the machine that usually drives creativity usually comes from the influence of others. Creativity must have inspiration. It must have matter upon which to draw new conclusions. Creativity draws its power from others.

My own performance of magic is so wound-up by the inspiration of others, it is virtually impossible to say definitively how I got to where I am today. People wrote the magic books that influenced my early development in magic. It was the inspiration of the early stage illusionists I saw performing as a child that instilled within me my love for platform and stage magic.

My mentor such as the late Charlie Dodson never was a "finger flicker," and certainly not a card mechanic. I often wonder if his influence is the reason that while I like card magic, it doesn't seem to like me. But that is ok. I like where I stand today. I feel confident with my Mental Photography and Svengali decks. I can handle cards ok, do a few sleights, and can convincingly do really good card forces. All of this has served me well.

In a similar way, my friends have served me well too, and I am fortunate so have so many good friends in magic. Of course at times they seem to get angry at me, rebuff me when they think I am wrong, and treat me like a horse's rear end on occasion. Magicians tend to be an opinionated, self-centered, and self-serving lot.

But of course there have been those times when I have asked myself, "What the heck am I doing and why am I doing it?" This is usually toned-down after I give others a chance to produce their input.

So I am happy where I am in magic for the moment. I try to be creative, but I often look to my friends for inspiration. That is the beauty of having such a great magic club as we have with SAM Assembly 138 and the Alliance of Illusionists magic clubs.

If you are reading this article, then you are probably one of my friends. I value you and your insight highly. You give me inspiration, laughter, and a reason to have a whole lot of fun. Thank you for who you are. Thank you for your friendship. I wouldn't be here without you! I just wish you were as good looking as me.



TOOLS OF THE TRADE

I have spent over three decades doing air conditioning work. My work truck is loaded down with the tools of my trade. I learned long ago to not skimp on these tools. I have duplicates of the crucial tools so I can still get the job done in the event that a tool fails or gets misplaced. Most of us that work with our hands eventually learn the lesson that poor quality cheaper tools will cost you more in the long run as well as more injuries. Don't misunderstand me, If I need to cut some tile only once to do a repair at my own home, you will probably see me walking out of Harbor Freight with a cheap saw. That is not a tool of my trade. I won't use it to earn a living, and it won't hurt my reviews if it fails.

Magicians need the physical tools of the trade, and most magicians are always buying new tools but are they quality tools? That cheap aluminum cup set is fine for learning with but if you decide you like it and will be including it in your normal repertoire then you should look into better quality and more attractive cups. You will look more professional with them, and they are more fun to practice and perform with. There are plenty of similar examples. You don't see professional magicians using magic set quality stuff in their act...usually.

The most important tool of my air conditioning trade is the education. The best tools in the world do you no good if you don't know when and how to use them and what to use them on. You may even look foolish in your ignorant attempts to use them. There are parts changers in my industry that have the tools and can fix some things but can quickly get in over their heads when real understanding is required. Magic is no different.

Our magic education is the most important of our tools. There is a serious shortage of four-year magic universities and most of us don't have the time for acting, improv, and theater training but we do have a tremendous amount of great home study material available to learn from so that we don't have to subject our audiences to decades of weak performances while we learn on the job. There is no good excuse for that with over 100 years of great books on showmanship and presentation at your disposal. A few great titles are even available on audiobook. There is some scattered good material available in video, but it is harder to find under all the garbage.

When you better understand how magic works then you can better utilize the vast array of tools and methods at your disposal.

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APPEARING GLASS BY STEVE THOMPSON

I was skeptical when I purchased this trick. You can take a bag that is folded flat and pick it up off a table and open it. You can have a spectator look inside and even feel inside, you never reach inside again. Suddenly the bag reacts in exactly the way a bag would if you dropped a glass of water in it from a couple inches up. You could have a spectator reach in the bag and pull out a glass that is $\frac{1}{2}$ full of liquid. That is what the ad copy promises as well as being something you could

do on stage or close up.

The trick is as promised. You could probably make a glass appear that is more than $\frac{1}{2}$ full but the bag is more likely to get wet from a little splashing. It won't hurt the bag which is Tyvex (I think) but you would want to wipe it out afterwards and I don't want the bother. No spectator has scoffed that I only had HALF a glass of water appear in an empty bag.

I love finding something that can be done close up or in a large show as The Appearing Glass promised. It delivered.

There are a couple things to keep in mind that should be somewhat obvious. This will not self-reset instantly. It would not take long at all if you don't have to dry the bag and didn't drink the liquid, but you couldn't do it with folks watching. Another thing to consider is that it requires a jacket. I did figure out a good way to do it while wearing a cover shirt.

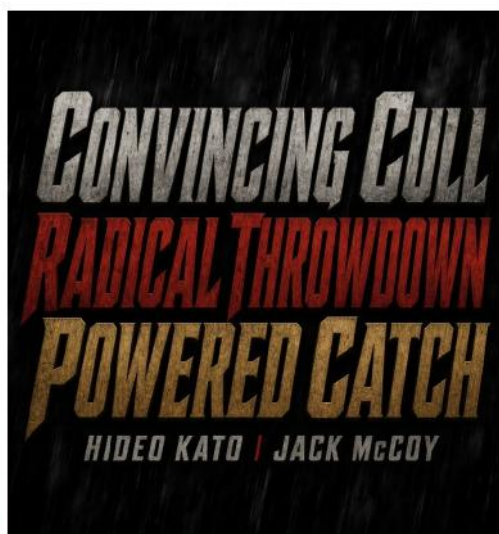
You could use the bag to appear other items provided they are an appropriate size and shape and you work out how to do the required actions with them. I have not tried with anything other than the provided glass.

There are a couple shortcomings. The provided lid for the glass is not completely water tight. You may be able to find a suitable glass/lid combination or do what I did and just fill it right before the show. The only other shortcoming is that there is no holder for the glass during the performance. It needs to be on your person. The way the instructions describe was not great for me. I used a bit of elastic and a few safety pins and made a reliable holder in just a few minutes.

I give it 9 out of 10. When the glass drops in the bag it creates its own surprising magic moment as the audience gasps. I enjoy this trick and it earned a spot in my main show which makes it worth 5 times what I paid for it.

It is durable but writing this has reminded me that I plan to order a spare in case I lose mine or I leave it laying around and my wife throws it away. Like most things in magic this will eventually be no longer available and I really enjoy this one.





23 years ago. I'd read a sleight posted by Japanese magician Hideo Kato at Steve Brooke's 'The Magic Cafe' website, down in the 'Secret Sessions' section. I liked the idea and came up with a routine for it which I named 'Radical Throwdown'. Hideo liked my idea and afterward created 'Powered Catch', crediting me in his description. These are screen captures from the website, my apologies in advance for their imperfections or difficulty in reading. As long as the website is still operating you should be able to find it with the information provided in the images.

OPEN 24 HOURS
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Café Quicksearch: [Advanced]

44 members are currently browsing the Café.
We now have 28,288 registered members,
who have posted 1,639,719 messages.
Our newest member is noir1910.

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Hideo Kato

Inner circle
Tokyo
3224 Posts

Posted: Mar 25, 2003 9:08pm [Quote](#) [Reply](#) [Profile](#) [PM](#)

Sleight No.3 Convincing Cull
created March 26,2003.

METHOD

Spread the cards with faces toward you. Cut the spread, bringing the first Ace on the face of left hand portion. Twist the left hand forward to show the face of the Ace to the audience. At this moment, two or three cards on the face should be pushed-off to the right.

When you return the left hand to bring the cards to vertical position, pull the face Ace to the left with left thumb. Put the upper left corners of right hand portion on the lower right corner of the second card of the left hand portion. Put right middle fingertip on the back of the second card and out-jog that card, at the same time culling the Ace to the face of the right hand portion.

Continue spreading and do same for remaining three Aces. After that, four indifferent cards are up-jogged and four Aces are culled on the face. Proceed your routine.

Trick No.80 FOAK Transposition
created March 26,2003.

This is a typical effective use of the Convincing Cull. FOAK means "Four Of A Kind".

METHOD

Ask a spectator name any value. Let's assume he selected 10. Say "Let's check if four 10's are in this deck." Then do Convincing Cull with 10's. When you close the spread, make a break below 4th cards from the face.

Still holding the cards in vertical position, push in the out-jogged cards in the deck and square the cards. Turning both hands to bring the deck in horizontal position, palm four 10's from the face. Produce the four 10's from a suitable place.

Hideo Kato

Hideo Kato explains culling 4 cards, but it can be used for any number. I combined it with the deck slap out of the hand principle I learned as a kid, the one where the deck is whacked out from between the fingers with friction from the bottom finger or fingers retaining the bottom card (selection) as the rest scatter downward to the floor. The same thing can be done with one hand holding it from the end (narrow edge) with the thumb on the bottom, the fingers on top. The thumb retains the bottom card. If your thumb shape doesn't provide for this method, instead hold the deck from the long side with the fingers on the bottom, thumb on top. This provides more friction area from the fingers. Make sure not to flash the bottom card in the process.

'Radical Throwdown' is basically 52-card pickup gag but with a magic purpose. **Note:** Don't toss them to the floor in the explanation, especially if it's a borrowed deck. Use a table top or other flat surface.

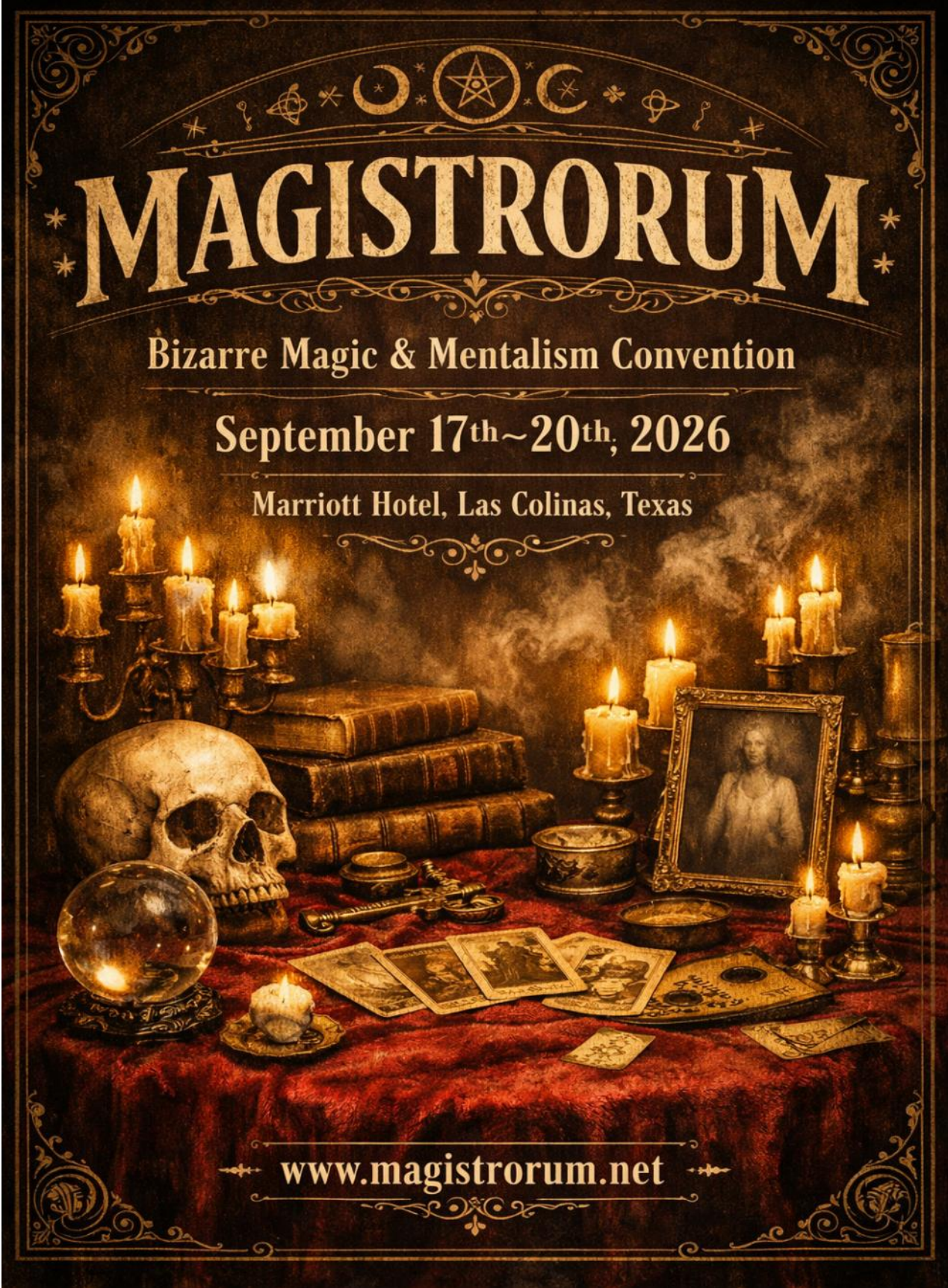
 Jack Loyal user 255 Posts	Posted: Sep 9, 2003 11:13am online quote pm profile report this post RADICAL THROWDOWN (an idea for Hideo Kato's Convincing Cull) - Effect: A spectator shuffles a borrowed deck. Any card is named. That card is upjogged, then the deck is tabled face down, with the card still outjogged. The spectator is asked to push his selection flush with the deck, then square the cards, making sure all cards are flush. The magician now quickly grabs the deck, then throws the pack to the floor, making a small mess. Yet one card is still in his hand. The magician turns it around to show it's the selection! Method: Have a deck shuffled. Take it back and ask the spectator to name any card. Perform Hideo's Convincing Cull. Leaving the card outjogged, place the deck onto the table, face down. The selection will now be on the bottom of the pack, though the spectators believe it to be the outjogged card. Have the spectator push the card flush, then square everything. Now all you have to do is, Pick up the deck with your thumb on the face of the pack (on the selection), the fingers on the back. Now dramatically toss the deck to the floor. The friction of your thumb will retain the selection as all the other cards fly downward (kind of like the old slap move). Show its face to conclude. Apologize for the mess. Thank You Hideo! Magically, Jack Everything's better with a dash of creativity.
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The strength in this effect is there's no shuffling or extra handling between the time they push the card flush and you do the toss move. The rhythm for this effect is quick, the entire thing taking maybe 30 seconds. When they push the card flush into the deck and verify everything being squared, keep your hands to your sides and say, *"Now, my challenge is to find the card in a magical way."* Reach forward with one hand, feinting preparation as if about to do something graceful, then do the toss move, the deck splatting onto the table and the hand holding 1 face down card. Revolve the hand to show its face then drop it face up on top of the tabled card mess as you say *"Tadaa!"* or something of this nature.

 Hideo Kato Inner circle Tokyo 3224 Posts	Posted: Sep 9, 2003 11:49pm quote pm profile report this post I think Jack's Radical Throwdown is a typical good use of the sleight. I think similar effect already exists, but jack's direct combination of sleights is the important factor in the trick. Imagine that you shuffle the deck to loose the selection controlling it to the bottom and then do throwdown. It's a weak trick. So it is very important not to false shuffle in Jack's trick. Jack's trick inspired me a tiny variation. I thought Up-jogging in Convincing Cull has no reason, but Convincing Control has a good reason for Up-jogging. It is to show the selection to audience. So Jack's effect would be better performed with Convincing Control. Hideo Kato
 Hideo Kato Inner circle Tokyo 3224 Posts	Posted: Sep 10, 2003 12:04am quote pm profile report this post Trick No.133 Powered Catch Conceived September 10, 2003. This trick is based on Reinhard Muller's Three Card Catch desribed in Pallbearer's Review, July 1971. And this was also inspired by Jack's Radical Throwdown. METHOD Place two black Js face up on the table. Spread the deck face down between the hands and invite spectator point one card. Up-jog it and show its face. When you lower the spread, do my most Convincing Control or normal Convincing Control. Now the selection is controlled to the bottom and up-jogged card is supposed as the selection. Place one black J on the top face up and another black J face up on the bottom. The bottom J is a bit jogged to left and the top J is a bit jogged to right. Place the deck in position for Three Card Catch. As soon as you push in the up-jogged card into the deck, do the throw. Show the result. Hideo Kato

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The poster features a dark, atmospheric background with a red velvet cloth-covered table in the foreground. On the table are various occultic items: a human skull, a crystal ball, several lit candles in ornate holders, a stack of old books, a framed portrait of a woman, tarot cards, and a ceremonial dagger. The entire scene is framed by an ornate border with magical symbols at the top.

MAGISTRORUM

Bizarre Magic & Mentalism Convention

September 17th~20th, 2026

Marriott Hotel, Las Colinas, Texas

www.magistrorum.net

2026 OFFICERS

1. PRESIDENT:	Hare Evison	h.e.808artworks@gmail.com	808-264-2785
2. VICE PRESIDENT:	Gary Poe	downtime824@gmail.com	817-914-0334
3. SECRETARY:	Bruce Chadwick	chadwickillusionist@yahoo.com	817-832-6062
4. TREASURER:	Lonnie Olander	lonnie.olander@gmail.com	254-749-0124
5. SERGEANT AT ARMS:	William Weebo Beaty	weeboentertainment@yahoo.com	972-824-9614
6. HISTORIAN:	Jack McCoy	magicjack@charter.net	682-560-8569
7. MEMBER AT LARGE:	Caleb Westeen	calebw827@gmail.com	682-222-3959

DFW AREA MAGIC HAPPENINGS

FORT WORTH SAM ASSEMBLY 138 ALLIANCE OF ILLUSIONISTS

Meets on the third Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm at the Illusion Warehouse party room and magic shop located at 3917 McCart Avenue, Fort Worth, Texas 76110. Contact chadwickillusionist@yahoo.com or go to www.sam138.com. Also Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/162025544420781/>



FORT WORTH MAGICIANS CLUB INC AND REN CLARK IBM RING 15

Meets on the first Thursday of each month, 7:00 pm. See <https://fortworthmagiciansclub.org/>

MID-CITIES MAGIC CIRCLE

See Mid-Cities Magic Circle at www.MidCitiesMagicCircle.org



DALLAS MAGIC CLUB, SAM ASSEMBLY 13 AND IBM RING 174

See www.dallasmagic.org for meeting information.

IMPROV COMEDY CLUBS IN ADDISON AND ARLINGTON

Both comedy clubs periodically host weekend comedy magic shows. For more details go to either www.ImprovArlington.com or www.ImprovAddison.com.

MAGIC IN THE LIVING ROOM

Periodic magic shows every 1st Tuesday at 7:00 pm at The Line Public House, 940 E Beltline in Richardson. See www.MagicLivingRoom.com for more information.

