

The Slit-less Peek Envelope

Okay, it's not really a peek envelope. It's just a cheeky way of getting a peek while using an envelope. And I've included a bit on justifications of having people write information on billets.

The method is extremely simple and is based on 2 things:

- Something Bill Montana showed to me, which was shown to him by Bob Cassidy.
- And a very basic card-to-pocket/card-to-impossible-location effect

For obvious reasons, I will not go into detail about the Cassidy method. And it is far bolder than my spin-off.

The Card-to-Pocket Method

I don't know who to credit for this – it's probably as old as time itself. I learned it in an intro-to-magic book at the library when I was very young.

The card-to-pocket effect is quite simple: a card is selected, remembered, given back to the performer, who then proceeds to “lose” it in the deck. The card is actually either placed on the bottom or is controlled to the bottom.

In the action of placing the cards into the box, the performer pulls down on the bottom card with their little-finger, and slides the deck into the box, allowing the bottom card to slide onto the outside of the box.

The performer puts the box into their pocket & later palms the card to produce it from under a flower pot (impossible location). Or, they hand the box to someone, while palming the selection and placing it in their pocket (card-to-pocket).

The Envelope Peek

The “envelope peek” goes as follows:

- You display a coin envelope and a billet
- You ask them to write a word/picture on the billet
- After they have done so, you take the billet and slide it *writing side down* into the envelope.... Except it doesn't go into the envelope. It goes underneath the envelope.

- You then hold the envelope in front of your face as though you are going to lick the flap to seal it. You're looking at their writing.
- Pause, and say: "*Before we seal this*, (move the envelope back to where it is almost parallel with the table, and 'slide the billet out') *if you could write the date on there as well* (point to the billet)".
- They write the date, and then you tell them to put the billet into the envelope & seal it.

(*Hint, hint, wink, wink: if you want more stuff like this – for free – then check out this page: <https://skywardmagic.com/free-magic-and-mentalism/>)*)

This is one of those things you really can't sell, because upon learning the secret, so many people would feel they had been cheated. And you really couldn't do a demo video either, because we, as mentalists, *know there is a method* and are thus able to rewind the video and easily figure it out. BUT, when mentalism is presented as the real deal, live & in front of people, this method flies right under the radar.

The acts of "sliding the billet inside", being "about to seal it", "stopping yourself", and then "sliding it out" appears entirely innocent – the audience has no reason to believe that you're doing anything other than what you appear to be doing.

Revealing the information should happen later in the performance, in order to get some time misdirection.

So, why would you have them write the date?

This goes back to a little something I released a few years ago, called "The Justification that Never Happened", in my "Hidden Thoughts" series.

The name of that essay was a little contradictory, as we do give a justification, but it is considerably different than most justifications as to why people should write information down.

The common justifications are:

- To keep everyone honest
- So you can't change your mind later
- So we can check ourselves at the end

- So you don't forget
- So it's fresh in your mind later
- Etc.

Such justifications will work, but they really don't benefit the participant and more often than not, insult the intelligence or integrity of the participant.

[By the way: why in the heck would a performer ask a participant to write the name of someone important to them, and then proceed to tear up the billet & throw away the pieces??? That is insanely inconsiderate. If they wrote the name of their deceased grandfather, and you proceed to tear it up, imagine how that must make them feel. Tearing something up and throwing it away is what you do with trash, receipts, homework, and taxes. It's a gesture of not caring about what you're holding.

Rant over.]

What I started doing, was to give them a reason to hang onto the billet as a memento.

For instance: have them write the name of their best friend. Peek it. Ask them to date it, and slide it in the envelope themselves. Now whenever they look back at the paper, they'll be reminded of that night, August 15th 2019, and how important this person is.

Or: have them write a goal/dream. Peek it. Ask them to date it. Now whenever they look at the paper in the future, they'll be reminded of how long and hard they've worked to reach the goal they set for themselves. Or they'll have a timestamp of when they set the goal.

Or: have them write a favorite book. Peek it. They date it. Now tell them to look at this again sometime in the future and write their new favorite book & the date, so they can keep track of what they enjoyed over time.

Or the name of a favorite song, famous person they want to meet, country they want to visit, etc., etc.

The objective is to give them a good and beneficial reason to write something down – not so they won't forget in the short-term, but so they'll *remember in the long-term*.

This serves a few purposes on their behalf:

- 1) It allows them to remember exactly what they were thinking of on a specific day in the past,
- 2) If you gave them a task, they can follow through with it later, and
- 3) When they look at the billet, they'll be reminded of that amazing experience they had at the mindreader show.

I think that's it for now.

Have a good one, take care, and stay safe out there. It's a mad world.

Tom Phoenix