

# Rope of Calcutta™



SECRET INSTRUCTIONS

# MAGICIAN'S S·E·C·R·E·T

Always read the directions for your trick all the way through before practicing!

## THE TRICK

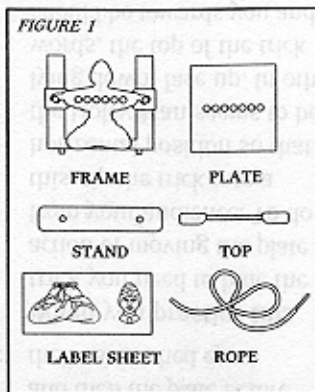
Here's an exciting escape trick from India! The audience is shown the magical "Holey Man" holding onto a frame. A clear plastic "plate" is slid into the frame directly behind the Holy Man. You, the Magician, thread a rope back and forth through the holes in the Holy Man and the holes in the clear plate. When you finish, the Holy Man has been tied to the plate. Or has he? You ask a volunteer to hold on to the ends of the rope. Suddenly, you pull out the plate, without the rope attached! The

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Holey Man is free! Wow! Did the plate melt? Or was it...magic?

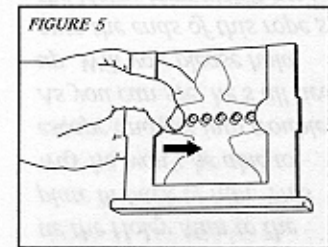
## THE PROPS

Your trick includes: the frame, stand, top, clear plastic plate, rope and label sheet (see Figure 1).



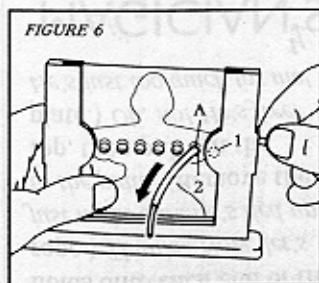
Apply labels to the Holy Man on the frame (see Figure 2).

Press the frame into the stand (see Figure 3).

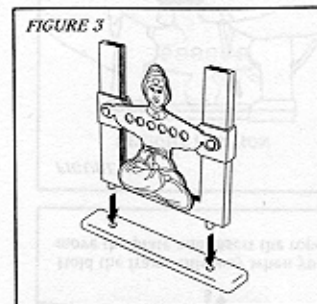
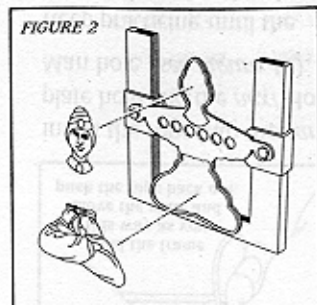


With your thumb, push the plate to the right. (See Figure 5.) You'll see the holes in the plate shift to the right. When you pull the plate back to the left, the holes return to their original positions.

**NOTE:** You may wish to position your thumb on the holes in the plate as you push or pull the plate. This way, the movement of your thumb will be hidden somewhat by the Holy Man's sleeve. Experiment to see which position is easiest for you.



You should still have the plate pushed to the right. From the front side of the Holy Man, insert the aglet end (now you know what the little plastic end of your shoelace is called) of the rope into the hole in the Holy Man and also through the hole in the plate directly behind it as shown in Figure 6. The rope enters hole A in the Holy Man and hole 1 in the plate. Hole 1 has been pushed out of sight into the edge of the frame.



## THE SECRET

Hidden inside the frame is a spring which enables you to move the plate back and forth, shifting the holes. This way, it looks as if you are tying the Holy Man to the plate when you really aren't!

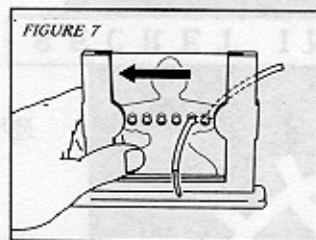
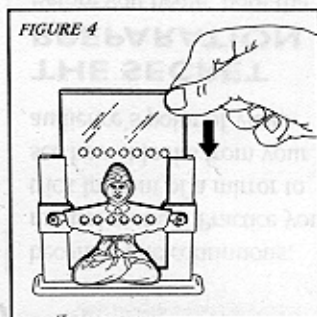
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Keep reading to see how this movable-hole device does the trick!

If you examine both the plate and the Holy Man, you'll notice that while the Holy Man has six holes, the plate has seven holes! Slide the clear plastic plate into the frame as shown in Figure 4.

Notice how the two sets of holes line up.

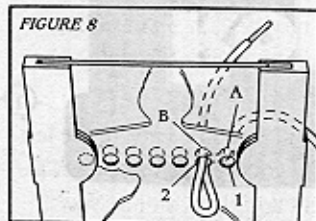
Hold the frame with its plate side toward you and the Holy Man away from you.



Pull the rope through until it is about two-thirds through the holes.

Now pull the plate back into its original position (see Figure 7). The holes in the plate have all shifted to the left. Notice how it takes the rope with it.

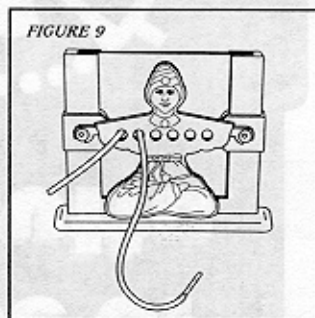
Now push the aglet end of the rope out through hole 2 in the plate (it's the very



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same hole it went in) and hole B in the Holy Man (see Figure 8).

To see what your audience will see, turn the frame so the Holy Man is towards you, as in Figure 9. It looks as if the rope has gone in through holes A and 1, then has gone back out through holes B and 2.



Now turn the frame so the plate is once again towards you. Then continue threading the rope in and out of

the holes in the Holy Man in this manner:

Push the plate to the right and hold it there. Insert the rope into the third hole in the Holy Man and the hole directly behind it in the plate. Pull the plate back to the left. Push the rope back out through that same hole in the plate it entered. Repeat these steps until you have threaded the rope through all the holes in the Holy Man (see Figure 10).

FIGURE 10



Both ends of the rope should be on the Holy Man side of the frame. At this point

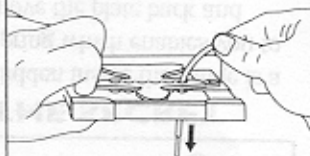
during a real performance, you would ask a spectator to hold the ends of the rope while you remove the top and then the plate before their astonished eyes!

When you practice this trick you need to hide the action of moving the plate from your audience. To do this, tip the trick into a horizontal position so that the Holy Man seems to be lying down, face up. In other words, the top of the trick should be towards you and the stand should be towards your audience. As you turn it horizontally, push the plate to the right. Insert the rope into the first set of holes, starting with the Holy Man side (see Figure 11).

Pull the plate back to the left as you tip the frame back to its upright position. Now

FIGURE 11

HORIZONTAL POSITION



Hold the frame this way when you move the plate and insert the rope.

FIGURE 12

UPRIGHT POSITION



Hold the frame this way as you move the plate and push the rope back out.

insert the rope into the *same* plate hole and the *next* Holy Man hole (see Figure 12).

Keep practicing until the action of moving the plate while turning the frame

becomes one continuous, natural motion. Practice your trick in front of a mirror to see how it looks from your audience's point of view.

## THE SECRET PREPARATION

Before you begin, both the plate and the rope should be out of the frame and on your table. You are ready to begin.

## THE PERFORMANCE AND "PATTER"

Say the following to your spectator as you perform the trick. The script or "patter" will help enhance the effect of the trick:

*Here's a little guy I picked up in my worldly travels. (Show your audience the frame.) He's a Holy Man. See his holes? He's a little mischievous, so I have to watch him all the time.*

*Here's a solid plate (tap it on the table for effect) which I will slide in back of my Holey Man. And I'll lock it in. (Place the top on the frame.) Please examine this rope to see that it is indeed solid. (Hand the rope to a spectator for inspection.) Thank you. Now... (as you start threading the rope in and out of the holes as described earlier, taking care to keep the frame in a horizontal position when you push or pull the plate) ... I'm going to thread this rope though these holes to tie the Holey Man to the plate in back of him. This way he won't be able to escape and get into trouble. As you can see, he's all tied up. Will you please hold onto the ends of this rope so the Holey Man won't get away? (Your spectator*

*holds onto each end of the rope.) Thanks. Now, let's just make sure he's tied up to the plate. (Remove the top, then pull out the plate.) Oh, no! He's free! He's just too quick for me!*



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