

Subject: A Great Introduction to The Art of Magic.
From: Tony Lewis
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Dear fellow members of Ring 2100,

A few weeks ago I got up quite early. I went to the TV to catch the early news. As I switched channels, I stopped for a minute to view a truly unique infomercial. I found the subject to be so interesting that it caused me to view a complete infomercial for the first time. The product being promoted was called JawDroppers. It consisted of a set of four videos that was being promoted as a way to use magic in your daily existence as opposed to a course on becoming a magician. When I subsequently corresponded with the creator of JawDroppers, Larry Anderson, he told me he felt that the average person would be intimidated by the concept of becoming a magician, whereas he felt his approach was more appealing.

Regardless of what Larry thinks, I believe that JawDroppers is as good an introductory course in magic as I have ever seen. An experienced magician will be familiar with many of the effects that are taught in the videos, but even he/she might find a few commercial effects there that are not known to him/her. I know I did. A person who is anything from a beginner to an intermediate magician should find much good material to be learned from the course.

After viewing the infomercial I contacted Larry Anderson and told him that I was interested in reviewing JawDroppers for the Ring 2100 forum. He responded by sending me a set for that purpose. BTW Larry Anderson has a very solid resume as a magician and a TV personality. Following my suggestion he has recently become a member of Ring 2100.

The set of four videos can be purchased for \$59.90 plus P&H at www.Jawdroppers.com. A Svengali deck is also included in the package. Larry tells me that it also available at selected magic stores.

There is a total of over eighty tricks taught on the four tapes. Each one is first shown before a live audience and then carefully explained by Larry, using an assistant for the demo. Without exception, I found all the explanations to be completely clear. The camera work was all quite good.

Larry's applications and explanations of misdirection are excellent. He also makes much use of what he calls the "Utility move." This is a basic technique of lapping.

Each tape runs about one and three quarters hours. The first of the four tapes is called "Out of Thin Air." It contains tricks which can all be performed impromptu. Tape two is called "Ready, Set, Go." It consists of twenty effects which require some light prep work to perform.

Tape three is entitled "Well Worth It." On it Larry presents and explains seventeen effects, which definitely require some practice to perform. The final tape is called "Cards, Cards, Cards." In addition to some pretty fundamental card tricks, this tape contains some very cute applications for the Svengali deck, which is included in the package.

Almost none of the eighty-one tricks on the four tapes could be called a "dog." On the first three tapes I gave an asterisk to twenty-one of them. I gave three effects a double star. I have been performing a variation of Al Schneider's Matrix for years. In the JawDroppers tapes Larry Anderson shows a very cute coin assembly using dollar bills rather than cards for the cover. I really like this approach as the bills and the halves are such logical companions.

Larry also presents two impromptu Zombie effects. One is with a dinner roll; the other is with a spoon, which is selected from a pile of silverware. Larry performs and explains both of these quite well.

In the tapes Larry demonstrates a variety of magical ways to get your business card out to potential clients. This is certainly very useful material.

I am not familiar enough with card tricks to rate the effects on tape four.

In summary, I highly recommend JawDroppers as a course for beginning magicians. It would make a terrific gift for an aspiring young magician. Magicians who are in the process of building up their basic repertoire should also get enough value out of JawDroppers to warrant purchasing it.

Regards,

Tony L. Lewis