



DESCRIPTION

Get ready to be mystified with a little gross out magic! Join Magician Ryan Oakes as he appears to be cutting his thumb right off! He'll show you how, step by step only on Activity TV!

MATERIALS

- A carrot
- Scissors
- Paper napkins (Two to three)

DIRECTIONS

1. To prepare, buy a carrot at the grocery store that's about as big around as your thumb. Bring it home and leave it out for about a week. Don't refrigerate it! It should get a bit shriveled and softer, making it easier to bend like a thumb.
2. After it's soft and bendable, break off about three to four inches of the carrot at the tip.
3. Get a few paper napkins (two or three) and layer them together. This will keep your audience from seeing the carrot when you put it underneath.
4. Hold the napkins with both hands, hiding your carrot tip in your left-hand fingertips but holding it against the napkins as you hold them. Show the napkins to your audience on both sides.
5. Take your right hand and reach under the napkins. As you go under, grab the carrot from your left fingers. No one should be able to see you do this under the napkins.
6. Bring the carrot tip pointy-side-up underneath the napkins in the center. Bring your left hand out from the napkins and wrap them around the carrot as you hold it with your left hand underneath. To everyone else, it will look like your thumb is wrapped in the napkins.
7. Squeeze the tip of napkin-wrapped carrot and have an assistant do the same. Bend it a bit too if you want. Everyone will be convinced that it's your thumb.
8. Hold the tip of the carrot with your left hand outside the napkins while continuing to hold the bottom of the carrot with your right hand under the napkins. Be sure to keep them out of the way. Have your assistant take a pair a scissors and carefully cut through the carrot. It will appear to the audience as if your thumb is being cut off! You should point to exactly where you want your assistant to cut on the carrot to avoid cutting off any fingers for real!
9. Do some acting to pretend that you're in pain, and hold the tip of your "thumb" (the carrot tip) up away from the rest of your hand to really sell it. Quickly drop your right hand (still in the napkins) down so no one will notice the rest of the carrot.

Did you know there's a free web video for this activity with step-by-step instructions?
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10. After pretending to squirm a bit more, add the tip of the carrot/thumb back into the napkins and crumble them up into a ball with the carrot inside.
11. Ball your hand up over the napkin, snap your fingers, and reveal that your thumb is right where it should be.

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