



SHADOW *WRITER*

MIRACLES...
IN YOUR POCKET

Introduction

The **Shadow Writer** is a tool designed for one of the most powerful techniques in mentalism: *pocket writing*.

What is Pocket Writing?

Pocket writing is one of the oldest techniques in mentalism. As far as we know, it was already used in the 19th century by the legendary magician *Karl Germain*.

The method is simple in concept: a small writing surface holding a piece of paper is hidden, usually inside the performer's pocket or under a table. Using a small writing device, the mentalist secretly writes down information. That billet is then casually retrieved and revealed as a prediction.

This technique is rarely used today, but we believe it's one of the strongest tools in mentalism. It allows for direct, impossible predictions of personal information, under real-world conditions anytime, anywhere.

What is the Shadow Writer?

The *Shadow Writer* is a tool specifically designed for *pocket writing*, consisting of two elements:

1: The Shadow Pad:

A small pad with a writing surface that offers just the right space and stability to write naturally and comfortably inside the pocket.

In the main section, it holds a single billet securely in place, ready to be removed and folded smoothly and fast without hesitation.

The flat back surface is designed to hold a stack of post-it notes, giving you extra flexibility during your performance. It also features a built-in holder to keep your *Shadow Writer* safely in place, always ready to load quickly and easily.

2: The Shadow Writer:

Instead of the traditional pencil stub, we've developed a specially designed gimmick that fits over the index finger. It's made to give you full control when writing inside the pocket, offering a secure grip and natural handling so you can write confidently much more easily.

Every detail of the Shadow writer has been crafted with the working mentalist in mind.

A powerful tool for one of the most direct and deceptive techniques in mentalism.

Preparation

Pre-fold a 5,5×8 cm billet (included with the *Shadow Writer*) in half, and in half again and then unfold it. Finally, slide it flat inside the *Shadow Pad*.

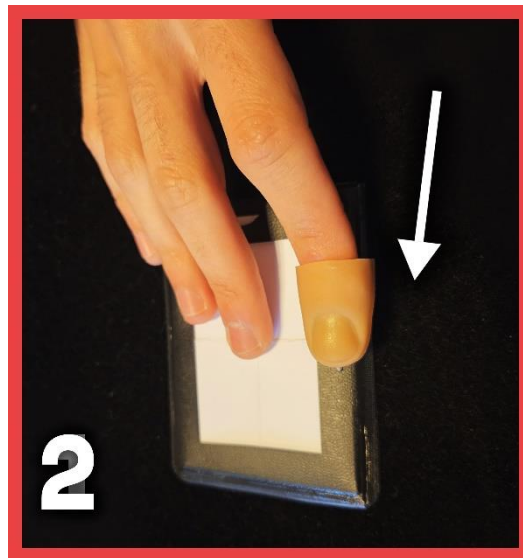
Clip the *Shadow Writer* onto the pad using the built-in holder (Fig. 1). Place the entire setup into your right pocket (if you're right-handed) or left pocket (if you're left-handed). Making sure the opening of the pad with the half-moon faces upward, and the billet and gimmick are facing to the outer part of your body.



Handling

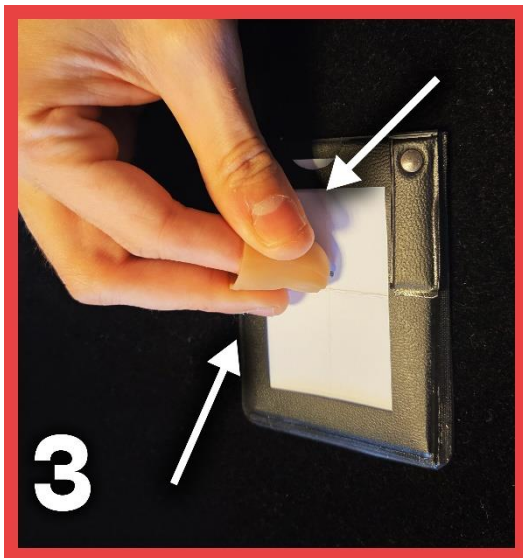
Loading the Shadow Writer:

When you place the hand casually in your pocket, in a continuous motion, insert your index finger into the gimmick, you can do this very fast. With a simple downward motion, the Writer is loaded and ready to use in one smooth action. (See fig. 2)



How to write:

Press firmly the gimmick with your thumb and middle finger to secure a stable grip (as shown in figs. 3 and 4). You can help you with your others fingers to supports the Shadow Pad, allowing you to write comfortably inside the pocket.



SHADOW WRITER | VERNET MAGIC

Posture is crucial. Your body should appear relaxed, with no signs of tension. Make sure your jacket (or outer garment) naturally covers your hands (Fig. 5), never tucked behind the pocket (Fig. 6).



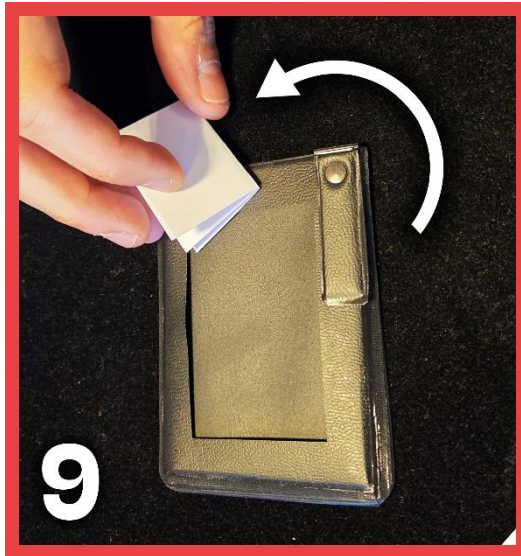
Retrieve the billet:

Once you've written down the information, take out the writer out of your finger and let it drop in your pocket.

Use your middle finger to slide the billet out halfway (Fig. 7), fold it inward (Fig. 8), and finish removing it while completing the final fold. (Fig. 9)

From this position, the billet is naturally placed into finger palm (Fig. 10), ready for your favorite switch, load or reveal.





With Post-It Notes

If you're performing in more casual environments, like walk-around or cocktail-style magic, you can use the post-it notes on the back of the pad for quick and repeatable predictions.

Place a small stack of post-it notes (included with the *Shadow Writer*) on the back of the pad, then pre-fold the first page to fold it easily later (Fig. 11). Insert the pad into your pocket so that notes are facing to the outer part of your body and the sticky side is upwards.

Write in the same manner described before.

To remove a prediction, First, fold the note from bottom to top, then peel it off entirely. Fold it again, letting the adhesive side seal the fold. From this point, it's easy to place the folded note into finger palm, just like with a billet.



Loads and Switches

Once you have the billet in finger palm, you're ready to reveal it. The simplest option is to pretend you're removing it from an empty pocket. But you can also use more deceptive methods—like switching it with a billet that was in full view, or secretly loading it into a wallet, envelope, or other location.

Here are just a few examples:

Le Paul Wallet (Vernet Magic)

The *LePaul Wallet* allows you to load the billet into an envelope, which is inside a zippered compartment of the wallet. This makes the prediction looks completely secure, and untouched, until the final moment.



Aleph Wallet (Vernet Magic)

This Vernet wallet has many features, but one of the most useful is an external opening that allows you to load the billet easily. It creates the illusion that the billet was inside the wallet from the beginning, clean, direct, and very deceptive.



Mullica Wallet

A classic wallet where the billet appears inside a nest of wallets and zippers. It looks completely impossible and adds a strong layer to your revelation.



Bob Ostin Clip

This special clip allows you to switch the billet in a very clean and visual way. It gives the impression that the billet was in full view the entire time.

When you open the clip, it secretly pulls the billet that was visible inside the clip. At the same time, you reveal the billet you had palmed, making the switch look natural and impossible.



Loading envelope

And envelope with and secret opening perfect to load the billet inside.



Replace the lead

To change the lead, first take out the small plastic piece that holds the lead. You can do this using the back side of the pushpin included.

Now, use the pushpin to gently push the old lead from the back side of the tube, so it comes out.

With a pair of tweezers, insert a new lead into the tube. Once it's inside, cut it to a short length and round the tip a little, so it writes smoothly. Finally, with the same pair of tweezers place the plastic piece with the new lead back into the Writer.

For those interested in exploring pocket writing in more depth, we highly recommend the work of Banachek and Mark Strivings.

Both offer valuable insights that can elevate your use of this powerful tool.

You can watch a detailed video explanation of all these chapters by scanning the QR code below:



Routines

Killer Prediction

Based on an idea of *Al Baker*

Effect

The performer shows a billet folded in fourths as a prediction and dramatically pierces through with a knife, then hands it to a spectator to hold it.

Now three different spectators are asked to name a one-digit number each: e.g., 1 – 7 – 4. The billet is removed from the knife and opened by the spectator, when he reads the prediction, it perfectly matches the number created by the audience.

Setup

Pre-fold one of the billets in fourths and pierce it in the center with a knife. Then carefully remove the knife, unfold the billet, smooth it out, and place it inside the *Shadow Pad* along with the *Shadow Writer*. This is going to be very important latter for the switch, as you are going to switch one pierce billet for another one.

Method and presentation

Before starting the routine, take a blank billet and pretend to write a number. Fold it in fourths and pierce it on the knife. This creates a strong visual moment.

Ask three different spectators to each name a single-digit number. As they respond, casually place your hand in your pocket, load the *Shadow Writer*, and secretly write the numbers on the billet.

You have plenty of time to do this, especially if you ask a few casual follow-up questions to create natural misdirection and buy time, what Ascanio referred to as “the clouding question”. For example:

“Why did you choose that number?”

“Are you sure? Would you like to change it?”

These questions feel spontaneous, but they give you the perfect window to complete the writing unnoticed.

Remove the *Shadow Writer* of your finger and let it drop in your pocket. Using your middle finger, slide the billet out of the *Shadow Pad* halfway, fold it inward, and finish removing it while completing the final fold. (Figs. 7, 8, 9 & 10)

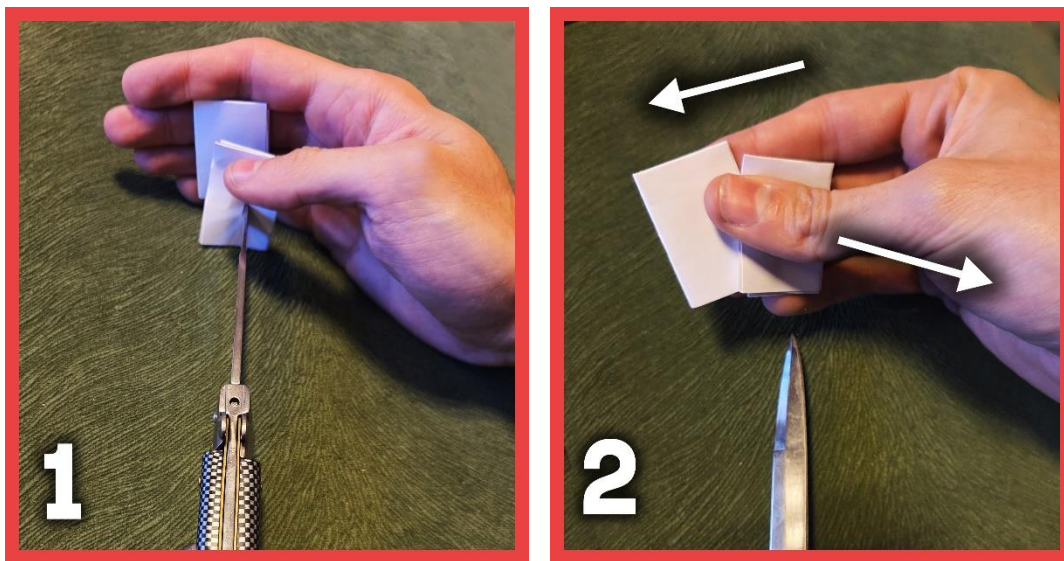
The switch

Palm the folded billet in finger palm. Ask for the knife and remove the original billet from it using your left hand to hold the handle and your right hand to remove the paper.

When you remove the billet from the knife, place it just slightly behind the one you're already finger-palming, being careful not to cut yourself with the blade (Fig. 1).

Now, as your thumb pulls back the billet you just removed, your fingers push forward the palmed billet at the same time (Fig. 2).

This creates a smooth switch, and you can immediately hand the billet to a spectator to read.



Tips

You can justify the poor handwriting on the billet by pretending to write the number behind your back, saying you didn't want anyone to see what you were writing. This adds an extra layer of deception.

The Balloon

Based on an idea of the amazing *Barrie Richardson*

Effect

The performer shows a balloon and says:

"A few hours ago, I wrote something on a piece of paper and placed it inside this balloon. I won't touch it again until the end."

A woman is invited onstage to sit.

The balloon is tossed, to and spectator and is asked to help:

"I'd like you to think of someone close to you, maybe a friend or relative, and imagine you're celebrating their birthday. Now think of the day and month they were born. Don't say anything yet"

After a moment, she is asked to name the date out loud: "May 17th."

The balloon is passed back to the woman onstage. She places it on her lap. The magician stands a few steps away:

Then the performer brings out a small notepad filled with possible birthday gifts, some expensive (a car, a smartphone, a computer) and some less impressive (a pair of socks, a pencil, etc.). The spectator selects one at random and reads it aloud: "A pair of socks!"

The magician says to the spectator "When I count to three, please burst the balloon."

She pops the balloon.

Immediately the magician asks her to take the folded billet, which she opens and reads aloud: it matches the exact birthday date and the gift!

Elements and preparation

For this routine, we'll use a clever principle that works perfectly with pocket writing: having part of the billet pre-written (with forced information).

Use a slightly wider billet. Fold it in thirds, and then in half.

In the bottom third, write something like:

"They will receive a pair of socks. (Fig. 1)"

Now fold that part behind the main writing area, so it stays hidden inside the Shadow Pad (Fig.2).

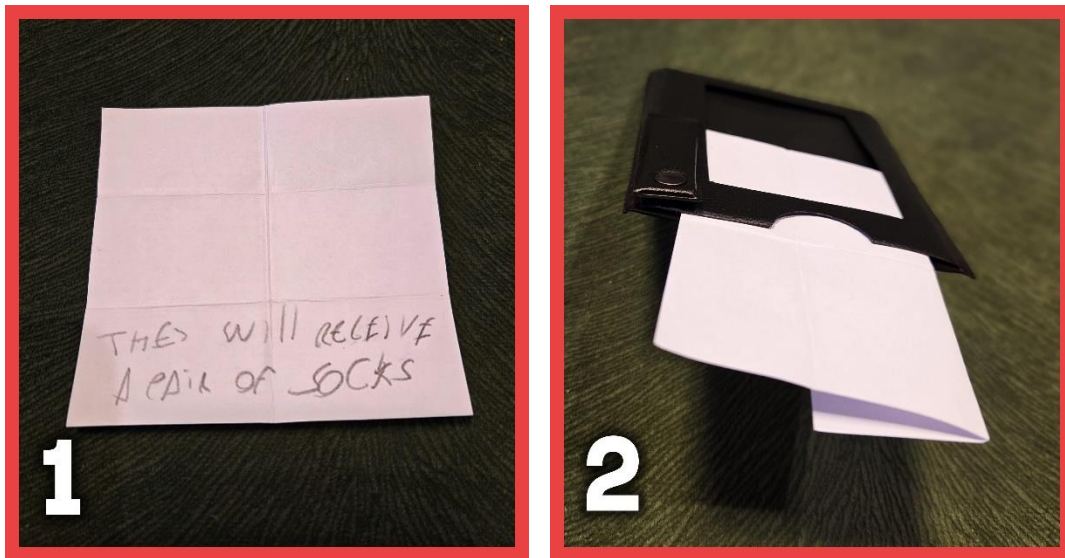
SHADOW WRITER | VERNET MAGIC

When you write the date during the routine, you only use the visible space. Then, when you remove and unfold the billet, both the date and the hidden message are revealed—creating a double prediction.

You'll need a Sven-pad or any other device that allows you to force a random object, in this case a pair of socks.

A balloon in which you place inside a small rubber piece of another balloon of the same color, to simulate the billet sealed inside.

A pushpin to burst the balloon.



Method and presentation

While the balloon is being passed around and the spectator says the date, you write it secretly using the Shadow Writer, make sure you write in the same orientation than the text prewritten before.

Just before placing the balloon on the spectator's lap, you discreetly add the folded billet behind the balloon.

Then you take the Sven-Pad, show different gift possibilities and ask a new spectator to lift and see one (it will be the pair of socks).

Now after that selection ask the girl to pop the balloon and everything will match.

The moment feels clean, fair, and impossible.

E.S.P. Prediction

Effect

Before beginning, the performer shows an envelope as a prediction.

The spectator shuffles five ESP cards (a circle, a plus sign, three wave lines, a square and a star) and places them face-down on the table. Then, they freely choose one placing a coin on top.

The performer takes the billet out of the envelope and gives it to a spectator to open, which he reads: “Star.” The card is turned over, it’s a perfect match.

Necessary materials

- Shadow Writer
- Vernet ESP Marked Deck
- A loading envelope (Page 8)

Method

The magician shows an envelope as a prediction and gives it to a spectator.

Next, hand five ESP cards to the person and ask for a quick shuffle. Once mixed, have the cards placed face down on the table, and ask them to put a coin on any one of them.

Thanks to the marked deck, you already know which symbol was chosen.

Casually place your hand in your pocket, load the Shadow Writer, and write the correct symbol. Palm the billet and secretly load it into the envelope.

To finish, ask the spectator to open the envelope and read the prediction—it will be an exact match.

Note

This routine is powerful because you are writing the prediction before the spectator even turns the card. This eliminates the usual tension of writing under pressure and makes the effect feel cleaner and more impossible.

A.C.A.P.N.

Any Card at Predicted Number *(Based on an Idea of Al Baker).*

Effect

The magician says that has a prediction in a folded billet inside his wallet.

Now from a shuffled deck of cards a spectator freely selects a card and cuts several times to lose the card in the middle.

Then, the spectator deals the cards face up, one by one, counting silently. When they reach their selection, they need to remember the position but continue dealing to avoid revealing the location.

After that, the magician takes the billet, which was inside the wallet from the start, is opened and reveals the exact card and position the spectator is thinking.

Method

Place a blank billet inside the Shadow Pad and have the Shadow Writer ready to load.

We will use the classic *key card* method. After the deck is shuffled, glimpse the bottom card and remember it. Ask the spectator to pick a card and remember it.

Now, he cuts in half, return his card on top of the top half, and complete the cut. Their card is now next to your key card.

They he can cut and complete again and again if they like.

Ask them to deal cards face up, one at a time, counting silently, and remember the position of their card when it appears, but not to pause or react.

As they do this, you also count and watch for your key card. The next card will be his card. You now know the card and its position, before they finish dealing.

Then, casually place your hand in your pocket, load the Shadow Writer, and write the card and its number, meanwhile the spectator still dealing cards on the table.

Retrieve the billet from the pad, fold it, and palm it.

Now load the billet in your favorite wallet.

A perfect way to reveal the prediction is using *Vernet's Aleph Wallet*.



vernet