

April 2026 Product Catalog

SLY ESIGNS

Revolutionary Innovations in Sly Deceptions



The Magic Industry's #1 satirical magazine

In the quiet corners of an Arizona workshop, a small company is quietly redefining the intersection of magic, mathematics, and meticulous craftsmanship. Sly Designs, founded by magician and inventor Sam Sléibhín (in partnership with an engineer), blends the deceptive elegance of sleight-of-hand with the precision of modern manufacturing—all proudly made in the USA.

At the heart of Sly Designs' lineup is the **Kirigami Cards™ series**, a breakthrough that solves one of kirigami's biggest frustrations: the tedious, error-prone cutting required to create intricate paper sculptures. Using proprietary micro-perforation technology, each premium Bicycle playing card arrives with invisible, precision-engineered perforations. Users simply pop the pieces apart, follow a clear video tutorial, and fold or slot them into topological wonders—no scissors, no knives, no imperfections.

Take the **Infinity Link Cards**: a single card transforms into a self-linked infinity loop, capable of threading a borrowed finger ring through its impossible structure. The cuts are so fine they're undetectable until activated, creating a pocket-sized paradox that's as much mathematical art as it is a performer's souvenir. Magicians hand these out after routines, leaving spectators with a tangible "how did that happen?" memento.

Then there's the **Three-Burr Puzzle** (or Three Burr Kirigami Cards), where three precut cards interlock like a classic wooden burr puzzle—but in an impossibly flat, deceptive form. The pieces "pass through" one another in ways that defy intuition, resulting in a sturdy, displayable sculpture that combines burr mechanics with kirigami elegance. It's meditative to assemble, addictive to disassemble, and perfect for puzzle collectors or as a subtle desk toy.

For coin workers, the **Infinity Chalice** delivers visual astonishment: four half dollars placed into a sleek, double-ended vessel (available in stainless steel luxury or lightweight plastic editions) penetrate solid metal one by one, emerging cleanly at the bottom. Fully examinable before and after, with a routine that's easy yet deceptive, it's a modern evolution of classic penetrations—machined in the USA for smooth, reliable performance.

The **Unhinged Deck** appears as a standard Bicycle deck but hinges open (thanks to a removable magnetic hinge) to reveal a hidden cavity ideal for loading rings, coins, billets, or predictions. The "infinite options" from the detachable hinge allow endless custom effects, from ring-in-box routines to hybrid vanishes.

Rounding out the line is the **Coin Cylinder Nouveau**, a streamlined take on the legendary Cylinder and Coins. Coins impossibly pass through, vanish, or assemble around the cylinder in clean, visual sequences—examinable and reset-ready.

And for geometric enthusiasts, pieces like the **Do-Deck-a-Hedron** let performers vanish a signed card only to reveal it impossibly woven into an assembled dodecahedron polyhedron, blending Harry Eng-style impossibilities with kirigami precision.

What sets Sly Designs apart isn't just the innovation—it's the ethos. As a veteran-influenced, American-made operation, every prop reflects thoughtful engineering: durable materials, domestic sourcing where possible, and a commitment to elevating both classic effects and new illusions. Monthly releases keep the catalog growing, from modular polyhedra to utility tools that spark creativity.



In an era where magic props can feel mass-produced, Sly Designs stands out as artisanal yet accessible—turning ordinary playing cards and coins into extraordinary impossibilities. For performers seeking fresh tools or puzzle lovers craving brain-teasing beauty, Sly Designs isn't just making products; it's folding wonder into reality, one precise cut at a time. Visit sly-designs.com to explore the collection—and prepare to question what's truly possible.

- Stone Johnson



CUSTOMER MESSAGES:

GREG CHESTER,
CUSTOMER RELATIONS

Dear Sly Designs Team,

I've been performing close-up magic for over 15 years, and your **Infinity Chalice** has become my new closer. The first time I did the penetration routine for a table of skeptics, the reactions were priceless—one guy actually asked to keep the chalice "for evidence"! The stainless version feels premium in hand, and the plastic edition is perfect for walk-around gigs where weight matters. Thank you for making something examinable, reset-friendly, and truly visual. Keep pushing those boundaries—your innovation is inspiring.

Best,
Marcus R.
Las Vegas, NV

Your **Infinity Link Cards** arrived last week, and I'm hooked. The single-card topology is mind-bending: flat and innocent one moment, then impossibly self-linked with a ring threaded through the next. The cuts are so precise they're invisible—spectators examine it and still can't figure it out. I've already bought backups in both red and blue backs. As someone who collects "impossible objects," this joins my top shelf alongside vintage Linking Rings props. Sly Designs is quietly revolutionizing pocket miracles.

Keep the wonders coming,
David K.
Chicago, IL

As a longtime fan of George Hart and modular polyhedra, I was thrilled to discover the **Do-Deck-a-Hedron**. The precut cards make assembly effortless (no more ruined decks from shaky hobby-knife work!), and the finished dodecahedron is stunning—perfect symmetry, beautiful pips patterns, and surprisingly sturdy. I even incorporated the signed-card-linked-inside routine into a casual parlor show; the "impossible weave" reveal got gasps and applause. Your micro-perforation tech is a game-changer for kirigami lovers. More geometric designs, please!

Gratefully,
Elena T.
Seattle, WA

I stumbled across your site while searching for unique magic giveaways and ordered the **Three-Burr Puzzle** on impulse. What a revelation! Three cards interlock like a classic burr, but the "impossible" sliding and clicking is so satisfying. The video tutorial was clear, and I had it solved (and reassembled) in under 10 minutes. My puzzle group meets monthly, and this was the hit of the night—everyone wanted to know where to get one. Proud to support a USA-made brand. You've got a lifelong customer here.

Warm regards,
Sarah L.

Phoenix, AZ

The **Unhinged Deck** has transformed my mentalism act. It looks like a standard Bicycle deck on the table—no suspicion—yet the removable hinge opens up endless loading options for billets, predictions, or even a tiny kirigami link as a reveal. I paired it with the Infinity Link for a double-whammy routine last weekend: vanish a signed card, produce it linked inside the deck's cavity. The audience was floored. Your attention to detail (smooth hinges, durable build) makes these props gig-ready. Thank you for creating tools that let magicians be more creative.

All the best,
Jordan M.
New York, NY

My teenage son (a math whiz and amateur magician) got the full **Kirigami Cards** collection for his birthday. He spent an entire afternoon folding Infinity Links, building polyhedra, and trying the signed-card-in-the-Do-Deck-a-Hedron effect on the family. The "impossible" moments had us all laughing and amazed. It's rare to find something that's fun for kids, challenging for adults, and beautifully made. Thank you for creating thoughtful, American-crafted products that spark wonder without screens.

Sincerely,
Rebecca & family
Austin, TX

A huge thank you to everyone who has reached out about our products—whether through email, social media comments, reviews, or direct messages. Your feedback, questions, stories, and kind words mean the world to us. They help us improve, inspire new ideas, and remind us why we love doing this.

If you ever have any questions, suggestions, or issues with your Sly Designs pieces (all proudly American-made by veterans and magicians), please don't hesitate to contact us directly. We read and respond to every email, and we do our very best to reply to comments and DMs across our platforms as quickly as possible.

Your support keeps the magic alive—liking, sharing, commenting, and subscribing on Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, and wherever else you find us truly helps. It allows us to keep creating the innovative, impossible, and downright fun magic and puzzle products we're passionate about.

Thank you again for being part of the Sly Designs community. We're grateful for you.

- Greg Chester
Customer Relations

YOUTUBE CHRONICLES:

JOEL FLEISCHMAN,
SOCIAL MEDIA CHIEF

In the latest video from Sly Designs' YouTube channel, titled "**3 Burr in a Bottle Tutorial**", founder Sam Sléibhín takes viewers on what can only be described as a masochistic masterclass in persistence, precision, and profanity-laced perseverance. Clocking in at around 19 minutes of raw, unfiltered determination, the clip promises (and delivers) step-by-step guidance on accomplishing one of the most notoriously frustrating feats in the world of impossible puzzles: maneuvering a fully assembled three-piece burr puzzle crafted from Sly's signature pre cut kirigami playing cards—into a narrow-necked glass bottle without disassembling it.

For the uninitiated, the **3-Burr Puzzle** itself is already a clever marvel: three micro-perforated Bicycle cards interlock via ingenious slots and notches to form a sturdy, symmetrical burr structure that echoes classic wooden puzzles but in a flat, deceptive, pocket-sized form.



Assembling the burr outside the bottle is satisfying enough—clean clicks, satisfying symmetry, and that "aha" moment when the pieces lock. But cramming the finished object through a bottle neck that's barely wider than a single card? That's where the real torture begins.

Sam wastes no time admitting the challenge's brutality. The description cheekily warns: "For those of you seeking to torture yourself..." And the video lives up to the billing. Viewers watch in real time as Sam attempts to angle, twist, compress, and finesse the assembled burr through the bottleneck—only for it to catch, jam, or spring apart at the worst possible moments. What follows is a slow-burn saga of trial and error: gentle coaxing gives way to frustrated sighs, muttered curses, and eventually full-throated exclamations that would make a sailor blush.

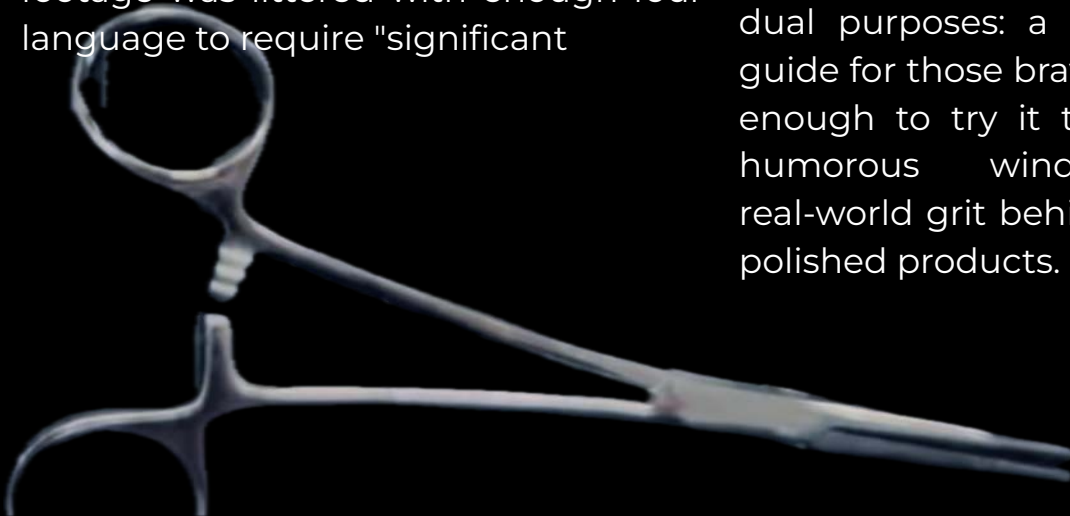
The final edit is remarkably clean, but Sam is candid about the carnage left on the cutting-room floor. In a brief aside during the video (and echoed in comments), he reveals that the raw footage was littered with enough foul language to require "significant

editing" to keep the tutorial family-friendly.

Entire segments were scrubbed of creative profanity—phrases that reportedly escalated from mild exasperation to inventive, multi-syllabic outbursts as the bottle refused to cooperate. The surviving version retains just enough authentic frustration to feel genuine without crossing into NSFW territory, a testament to both Sam's patience and the post-production team's restraint.

The payoff, when it finally arrives, is glorious. After multiple failed attempts, strategic rotations, and one particularly tense compression maneuver, the 3-Burr settles inside the bottle with a satisfying *thunk*. Sam holds it up to the camera: a perfect, impossible object sealed in glass, looking as if it had been grown there. The visual gag lands hard—it's the puzzle equivalent of a ship-in-a-bottle, but achieved with nothing more than three playing cards and sheer stubbornness.

For Sly Designs fans, the video serves dual purposes: a legitimate how-to guide for those brave (or masochistic) enough to try it themselves, and a humorous window into the real-world grit behind the company's polished products.



The 3-Burr in a Bottle isn't just a trick—it's a testament to the ingenuity, frustration, and eventual triumph that define Sly's approach to "impossible" magic and puzzles.

Watch it yourself on the Sly Designs YouTube channel (search "3 Burr in a Bottle Tutorial")—just be prepared for some vicarious swearing and a sudden urge to raid your recycling bin for empty bottles. And if you succeed where many will fail, consider sending Sam your own blooper reel. He might need the catharsis.

- Joel



PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT:

KILLIAN LORD
EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTOR

The **Infinity Link** by Sly Designs is the kind of pocket miracle that stops conversations dead and restarts them with the same two words: "How...?"

Created by magician and inventor Sam Sléibhín, this standout piece from the Kirigami Cards™ series transforms a single Bicycle playing card into a topological paradox that feels like it violates the laws of physics—yet it's entirely self-contained, examinable, and repeatable. At its core, the Infinity Link is a precision-engineered gimmick hidden in plain sight: a full deck of premium Bicycle cards (available in red or blue backs) featuring nearly imperceptible micro-perforations. These aren't crude cuts; they're micro-engineered weak points that remain invisible until the performer chooses to "pop" the hidden shape.

The effect is deceptively simple yet visually staggering. Show a regular card front and back—no suspicious edges, no thickness. With a few deliberate folds and a subtle pop, the card suddenly becomes an interlocking infinity loop: a self-linked, Möbius-like structure that defies casual inspection.



The real kicker? Borrow a spectator's finger ring (or any small solid object like a key, coin, or even another card), and thread it directly through the impossible links. The ring is now genuinely captured within the folded geometry—locked in place until the performer reverses the process or hands the whole thing out as a souvenir.

What elevates the Infinity Link beyond a clever puzzle is its dual life as both a close-up utility and a high-impact performer tool. Magicians use it in walk-around sets to cap a vanish routine ("Your signed card didn't disappear—it linked itself into another dimension!") or as an instant giveaway that leaves audiences clutching a tangible piece of astonishment. The micro-perforations are so fine that the card looks and handles like a normal Bicycle until activated—no bulky gimmicks, no awkward resets, just clean, deceptive elegance.

Sly Designs' proprietary micro-perforation technology is the unsung hero here. Traditional kirigami (paper cutting and folding) demands hours of precise hobby-knife work with room for error; Sly bypasses that entirely. Each card separates cleanly along engineered lines, folds smoothly, and locks with satisfying precision. The included online video tutorial (accessible after purchase) walks through handling, performance tips, and variations—ensuring even intermediate magicians can master the reveal in short order.

Reviews from the magic community echo the excitement. One performer called it "ingenious" and a "game-changer for linking effects," while collectors praise its compact beauty as a display piece that sparks endless "how did you do that?" debates. At around \$40 for a full deck with tutorial access, it's an accessible entry into Sly's growing line of USA-made, veteran-influenced magic and puzzle props—where ordinary playing cards become extraordinary impossibilities.

In an age of digital distractions, the Infinity Link reminds us that the strongest magic often fits in your pocket: one card, one fold, one borrowed ring, and a lifetime of wonder. Whether you're a working pro seeking fresh close-up material or a topology enthusiast chasing the next mind-bender, this is the link that refuses to be broken.

Available now at sly-designs.com because sometimes the impossible just needs the right cut.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

DR. DINA BUNS
HUMAN RESOURCES

Employee Spotlight: Adam Goldenstein – The Precision Engineer Who Turns Dreams into Metal

At Sly Designs, magic doesn't just happen on stage or in a spectator's hand—it starts in the workshop, where ideas meet steel, tolerances are measured in thousandths of an inch, and impossible becomes tangible. Leading that charge is **Adam Goldenstein**, our aerospace engineer and master machinist, the quiet force who brings founder Sam Sléibhín's wildest visions from sketch to reality.

Adam's journey to Sly Designs is as precise as the parts he creates. With a background in aerospace engineering, he spent years designing and fabricating components for high-stakes systems—think turbine blades, satellite mechanisms, and structural elements that must survive extreme conditions without a whisper of failure. That world of exacting standards, tight deadlines, and zero margin for error craftsmanship translated perfectly to Sly's lineup of machined magic props: the sleek stainless steel **Infinity Chalice**, the removable-hinge **Unhinged Deck**, the streamlined **Coin Cylinder Nouveau**, and the sturdy bases that cradle our polyhedra sculptures.

"Sam comes to me with concepts that sound like stage illusions," Adam says with a wry smile. "A chalice that lets coins melt through solid metal. A deck that hides a secret compartment behind a magnetic

hinge. My job is to make sure it's not just possible—it's reliable, repeatable, and beautiful under the brightest lights."

Adam's role goes far beyond machining. He's the bridge between creative spark and manufacturable product. When Sam sketches a new idea—say, a double-ended vessel with internal channels for flawless coin penetration—Adam translates it into CAD models, selects the right alloys (often 303 stainless for its machinability and corrosion resistance), programs the CNC mills and lathes, and hand-finishes every surface to remove tool marks and achieve that signature Sly polish. He iterates relentlessly: prototypes are tested for smoothness, weight balance, examinability, and durability under gig conditions.

One standout example is the luxury **Infinity Chalice**. Sam's vision demanded a seamless, weighty feel with no visible seams or awkward angles. Adam spent weeks refining the internal geometry, boring precise bores, threading hidden mechanisms, and ensuring the gimmicked quarter seated perfectly every time. The result? A prop that feels like heirloom jewelry but performs like a miracle.

Beyond the metal, Adam embodies Sly's veteran-owned, American-made ethos. Working from our Dewey, Arizona shop (just outside Phoenix), he sources domestic materials whenever possible

and mentors younger fabricators on the team. His calm, methodical approach balances Sam's ADHD-energy creativity, creating a partnership that's produced some of the most innovative magic tools on the market.

"Adam doesn't just build things—he solves riddles," Sam often says. "He figures out how to make the impossible feel effortless."

When he's not at the mill, Adam enjoys running Arizona's trails, tinkering with vintage motorcycles, and occasionally performing amateur card tricks—though he admits he's no match for the pros who use his creations.

We're grateful for Adam Goldenstein: the engineer who turns "what if" into "watch this." His hands make the magic real—one precise cut at a time.

Thank you, Adam, for being the backbone of Sly Designs. Your craftsmanship keeps the wonders coming.



The Enigmatic Life of Professor Higgins: A Magician's Shadow Dance with Danger

EDGAR DOS SANTOS,
FIELD REPORTER

In the dim-lit parlors of Las Vegas and the smoke-filled backrooms of international intrigue, few names evoke as much whispered awe as "Professor" Higgins. No one calls him Rob—not his old CIA handlers, not the world leaders he's dined with, and certainly not the audiences who've watched him pull miracles from thin air. To the world, he's simply the Professor, a moniker earned from his scholarly demeanor and encyclopedic knowledge of illusion, misdirection, and the subtle arts of deception. But beneath the top hat and tails lies a man whose life reads like a spy thriller scripted by Houdini himself: a retired CIA operative who wielded magic not just for applause, but for survival.

Born Robert Higgins in a sleepy Midwestern town in 1945, the Professor's affair with magic began early, sparked by a tattered deck of cards his grandfather—a vaudeville performer—left behind after the Great Depression. Young Rob spent hours in his attic, practicing sleights until his fingers bled, finding solace in the control magic offered amid a chaotic childhood marked by his parents' divorce. "Magic isn't about tricks," he'd later say in interviews. "It's about rewriting reality, one shuffle at a time." This passion became his anchor, a mental escape that sharpened his mind and steadied his nerves. Little did he know it would one day save his life—repeatedly.

By the late 1960s, the Professor had honed his craft on the college circuit, earning a philosophy degree while performing mind-reading acts that left professors scratching their heads. But the Vietnam War draft loomed, and a chance encounter with a CIA recruiter at a campus lecture changed everything. Impressed by Higgins' ability to "read" a volunteer's thoughts (a clever cold-reading technique), the agency saw potential in his skills for covert operations. Recruited into a shadowy program training agents in psychological manipulation and escape artistry, the Professor traded campus stages for global shadows. Magic, he discovered, was the perfect cover: a wandering illusionist could slip into any country, rubbing shoulders with elites while gathering intel—or worse.

His first major assignment took him to Buenos Aires in 1972, during the height of Argentina's political turmoil. Posing as a traveling magician entertaining at high-society galas, the Professor was tasked with infiltrating the inner circle of a notorious general suspected of ties to drug cartels and human rights abuses. One sweltering evening at a lavish villa party, he performed for the general himself, a man known for his paranoia and quick trigger finger. As the Professor executed a flawless "vanishing coin" routine—palming a borrowed peso from the general's

hand—the warlord laughed, but his eyes narrowed. Later that night, guards cornered Higgins in a back room, accusing him of spying after finding a hidden microfilm in his prop case.

Trapped, with guns drawn and no escape route, the Professor's mind raced back to his attic days. He smiled calmly, producing a deck of cards from his sleeve. "Gentlemen," he said in flawless Spanish, "allow me to show you something impossible." With sleight-of-hand honed over decades, he manipulated the cards into a "mind-reading" act, subtly forcing the guards to reveal their own suspicions through psychological cues. As they lowered their weapons in confusion, he executed a classic "flash paper" distraction—igniting a hidden strip in his palm, creating a burst of flame that blinded them momentarily. In the chaos, he slipped a handcuff key (disguised as a ring) from his pocket and vanished through a service door, melting into the Buenos Aires night. Magic hadn't just entertained; it had rewritten his fate, turning a death sentence into a daring exit. That night solidified his belief: illusion was his sanity, a mental fortress amid the moral ambiguities of espionage.

From Argentina, the Professor's travels escalated. In 1978, he found himself in Tehran during the Iranian Revolution, embedded as a cultural attaché-cum-magician at embassy events. His target: a shadowy arms dealer rubbing shoulders with revolutionary leaders, a man the CIA wanted eliminated. The Professor befriended him over shared cigars and card tricks, learning the dealer's habits while performing at

underground soirees attended by the likes of Ayatollah sympathizers. One fateful night in a hidden teahouse, as tensions boiled outside, the dealer grew suspicious and pulled a knife during a private show. Cornered again, the Professor used a "linked rings" illusion—subtly swapping the dealer's knife for a prop blade with a hidden release mechanism. As the dealer lunged, the "knife" bent harmlessly, buying time for the Professor to deploy a smoke pellet (concealed in a false thumb tip) and escape through a window. He never completed the assassination—revolution erupted days later, claiming the dealer instead—but the incident haunted him. Back in his hotel, alone with his cards, he'd practice endless shuffles, the rhythmic motion grounding him against the nightmares of what-might-have-been.

The 1980s brought the Professor to the opulent palaces of the Middle East, where he "performed" for notorious figures like Saddam Hussein during a covert mission in Baghdad. Posing as an American entertainer invited to a state dinner, he was there to gather intel on chemical weapons programs. Hussein, ever the showman, challenged him to a "duel of wits," demanding the Professor make his prized golden watch disappear. With palms sweating, Higgins obliged, using a mirror box prop to vanish the watch—only to "reappear" it in Hussein's own pocket, laced with a microscopic tracking device. The dictator laughed it off, but his guards weren't amused. Later, as they escorted him out under suspicion, a routine pat-down turned tense.

Continued on next page



(Left) Professor Higgins stands with the late Cuban dictator Fidel Castro in Havana (1983).

(Right) The Professor shaking hands with US President Ronald Reagan on the White House lawn after receiving a Presidential Commendation for Meritorious Service (1985).



Professor Higgins speaking with reporter Edgar Dos Santos. He asked that his identity be obscured even though he provided us with undoctored images from more than 40 years earlier.

Quick-thinking, the Professor palmed a flash-bang capsule (disguised as a coin) and triggered it during a "farewell trick," creating enough diversion to slip away into the desert night. Rubbing shoulders with such tyrants tested his soul; magic became his therapy, a way to reclaim control in a world of chaos. "Every trick is a reminder," he'd muse, "that reality is malleable—and so am I."

Not all encounters were adversarial. In 1985, during a thaw in Cold War tensions, the Professor was dispatched to Moscow for a cultural exchange, performing at events attended by Mikhail Gorbachev. No assassination here—just intelligence gathering amid perestroika optimism. Gorbachev, intrigued by the Professor's "mind-reading" act, invited him for a private vodka-fueled session. Over cards, the Soviet leader shared unguarded thoughts on reform, intel that proved invaluable. But when KGB shadows closed in, suspecting espionage, the Professor used a "hypnosis" routine to misdirect them, planting false memories with suggestive patter and a hidden audio device. Escaping via a staged "disappearance" from a locked room (a classic Houdini lock-pick under his watch), he fled across the Iron Curtain. Magic's whimsy contrasted the mission's gravity, keeping despair at bay.

The Professor's adventures peaked in the 1990s with a high-stakes op in Colombia, targeting Pablo Escobar. Infiltrating Medellín's narco-elite as a flamboyant magician, he performed at extravagant parties where Escobar himself appeared. Tasked with assassination, the Professor got close during a gala, using a "poisoned"

card trick to slip a toxin into Escobar's drink. But guards intervened, leading to a rooftop chase. Pinned down, facing certain death, he deployed his ultimate escape: a "levitation" harness hidden in his cape, rappelling down the building while distracting pursuers with thrown flash cards. The hit failed—Escobar's empire crumbled soon after—but the near-miss left scars. Magic rituals—endless coin manipulations, ring links—became his nightly salve, rebuilding his fractured psyche one illusion at a time.

By the early 2000s, the Professor retired from the CIA, his body battered but his spirit intact, thanks to magic's enduring embrace. Settling on a quiet Illinois farm (far from Chicago's bustle), he now tours as a lecturer, sharing sanitized tales of "magical escapes" that hint at deeper truths. He's rubbed elbows with presidents like Reagan and Clinton, advising on "perception management," and even performed for benign leaders like Mandela, where magic bridged cultural divides without shadows.

Today, the Professor reflects: "Magic saved me—not from bullets, but from the void. In a career of lies and loss, it was the one honest thing, a love affair that whispered, 'You can always rewrite the ending.'" His story endures as legend, a testament to how illusion can conquer even the darkest realities. -

Edgar Dos Santos has never been content with the surface of a story. A chain-smoking, rumpled correspondent for Global Enigma Magazine in the late 20th century, he built a career on the fringes—where magic, espionage, and geopolitics collided in ways no one else dared report.

OPINION:

GIOVANNI VULCANO,
OPINION WRITER

The Irony of Magic: Why Most Magicians Aren't That Creative

Magic is the art of the impossible—creating wonder from deception, bending reality with a flick of the wrist or a clever word. Practitioners call it an art form, a craft of imagination and ingenuity. Yet here's the delicious, almost Houdini-level irony: a majority of magicians aren't particularly creative.

In a field built on "original" effects and personal style, most performers rely heavily on purchased tricks, marketed routines, and "off-the-shelf" methods from magic shops, dealers, or online creators. A working magician can build an entire career performing effects invented by someone else, with minimal personal alteration—essentially operating as a cover-band illusionist. Creativity? Not required for success. You can buy the trick, learn the moves, script the patter, and book the gigs. No need to invent a single sleight or premise.

This isn't a new observation. As one magician noted in a widely discussed piece, "Magicians are one of the few artforms where creativity and originality are not required in order for one to be successful." Unlike musicians who must compose or interpret uniquely, painters who invent visuals, or writers who craft original narratives, many magicians thrive by mastering execution rather than invention. The community rewards polish, timing, misdirection, audience management, and making it their own

far more than groundbreaking ideas. A flawless performance of a classic like the Cups and Balls or ambitious card routine often garners more respect than an original but technically rough effect.

The irony deepens when you consider magic's core promise: to surprise, to break expectations, to make the impossible seem effortless. Yet the industry thrives on replication. Tricks are sold with "exclusive rights" that last until the next big release; effects are copied wholesale, sometimes with minor tweaks (a new color, a different prop, a reworded script). Forums, Reddit threads, and dealer sites buzz with debates over "who invented it first" or "is this a rip-off?"—but the culture largely accepts that originality is optional. Performers flock to conventions to buy the latest "killer" effect, then perform it exactly as taught. The result? A sea of magicians doing very similar material, year after year.

Why does this happen? Several factors converge:

- **The Secret-Keeping Ethos:** Magic's code of ethics prioritizes protecting methods over sharing bold new ideas. Innovators guard their work fiercely, limiting the free flow of inspiration that fuels creativity in other arts.

- **Commercial Pressure:** Professional magicians need reliable, audience-tested material that works every time. Inventing from scratch is risky—most original ideas flop. Buying proven effects from creators like those at Sly Designs, Theory11, or Vanishing Inc. reduces that risk.
- **Skill Over Substance:** Mastery of technique (sleights, psychology, timing) is celebrated more than conceptual originality. A performer who nails a 100-year-old trick can outshine one fumbling a brand-new routine.
- **The "Aha" Trap:** Many magicians fall in love with the method itself—the clever gimmick, the sneaky move—rather than the overall experience or story. They chase the next shiny toy instead of building a personal voice.

The irony peaks when magicians defend their art as "creative" while performing carbon copies. Online discussions often lament "lack of originality" in magic, yet the same voices queue up for the latest marketed release. True innovators—think Derren Brown, Derek Delgaudio, or even prop innovators like those at Sly Designs who blend kirigami and engineering—are rare precisely because the path of least resistance is imitation.

This isn't a condemnation; it's an observation. Magic's strength lies in its accessibility—anyone can learn a trick and astonish. But the field's greatest untapped potential may be encouraging more creators to step beyond the catalog. Imagine if the majority treated me one dares to

magic like composition rather than covers.

Until then, the art of the impossible will remain delightfully paradoxical: a creative pursuit where creativity is often optional, and the real magic happens when someone dares to make it their own -

Giovanni Vulcano

Editor-in-Chief's Note:

Giovanni's opinions are his own and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or values of Sly Designs. To be fully honest, the only reason he is writing for us is because I lost a bar bet and the owners of the company laid their trust in me with the publication of this magazine. Any and all issues you may have with this opinion piece should be directed at Giovanni himself. Or with me, because after all I am the editor of this magazine and the buck stops with me. But honestly, if you feel attacked by his opinion you need therapy.

- Stone Johnson.

Kirigami Cards: The Elegant Side Hustle That Can Match a Balloon Twister's Earnings - Without the Humiliation

ADAM HICK,
PRODUCT REVIEWER

Picture this: a child's birthday party in full swing. Balloons pop, kids scream, and a harried entertainer in a polka-dot bow tie twists a long pink latex into something vaguely resembling a sword-wielding giraffe. It's chaotic, it's adorable, and it's exhausting. The balloon twister pockets \$150–\$300 for a 60–90 minute gig, sometimes more with tips or add-ons, pulling in a respectable full-time income if they hustle weekends and book solid. But for every successful twister raking in four figures a month, there's a quieter, far more refined alternative waiting in the wings: **Kirigami Cards** from Sly Designs.

These aren't your grandma's paper snowflakes. Sly Designs' Kirigami Cards™ are precision micro-perforated Bicycle playing cards that transform with a few deliberate folds and pops into mind-bending topological sculptures—self-linked infinity loops, interlocking polyhedra, or impossible geometric links. The cuts are so fine they're invisible until you activate them, turning an ordinary card into a pocket-sized miracle. Performers can vanish a signed card, then reveal it impossibly threaded through the folded structure, or simply hand the finished

piece to a stunned spectator as a lasting souvenir.

Now, the money part—and the delicious irony.

Balloon twisting gigs typically run \$120–\$250 per hour (or flat \$200–\$400 per party), depending on location, experience, and add-ons like face painting or costumes. Full-time twisters who book 15–20 events a month can clear \$40,000–\$80,000 annually before expenses (balloons aren't cheap, and they pop). It's solid work, but it's loud, physical, and often involves wearing silly outfits while managing sugar-high toddlers who want "a bigger dinosaur NOW."

Kirigami Cards flip the script. The initial investment is low—a deck or kit from sly-designs.com runs around \$40–\$70, with video tutorials included. Once mastered, the effects are compact, clean, and endlessly repeatable. No mess, no popping latex, no need to contort your body into balloon-animal yoga poses. You perform seated at a table, in close-up walk-around, or even strolling at corporate mixers, high-end weddings, or museum events. The props are elegant: premium Bicycle stock, artistic designs, mathematical beauty. Spectators don't just laugh—they gasp, examine, and beg to know "how."

Income potential? Comparable, often higher per gig with less effort.

- **Close-up magic sets** at parties, restaurants, or events: \$200–\$500/hour or flat fees of \$300–\$800 for 1–2 hours, especially when you hand out the linked card as a giveaway (instant memorable souvenir = repeat bookings and referrals).
- **Corporate gigs** or trade shows: \$500–\$1,500+ for a few hours of interactive "wow" moments—executives love the intellectual, impossible vibe.
- **Street or restaurant work:** Tips alone can match balloon earnings, but with zero costume humiliation and props that fit in your pocket.
- **Teaching workshops** or selling custom kits: Add-on revenue streams balloon twisters rarely tap.

The key advantage: **elegance sells premium.** A balloon giraffe is cute for five minutes; a spectator's ring impossibly linked through a folded card is conversation gold. It lingers. People post it on social media, tag you, book you again. No screaming kids tugging at your pants—just quiet astonishment and upscale bookings.

Balloon twisting is honorable, fun work. But if you're tired of latex dust in your hair and the constant fear of a sculpture deflating mid-performance, Kirigami Cards offer a dignified upgrade. Same (or better) earning potential, zero humiliation, and the quiet satisfaction of turning a simple playing card into something that makes people question reality.

In the world of side hustles, that's not just elegant—it's impossibly smart.

Ready to fold your way to better gigs? Check out Sly Designs at sly-designs.com. One deck, one tutorial, and suddenly you're the most sophisticated entertainer in the room. No balloon pump required.

-Adam Hick



Above: Illustration clearly shows how you would give a spectator a Kirigami Card. It's far more elegant than inflating a balloon with your slobbery mouth. Unless of course you're trying to implant the idea of a wet balloon knot in the spectator's mind.

Andy Dallas: The Escape Artist Who Turned Champaign into a Circus of Chaos and Card Tricks

Somewhere in the cornfields of central Illinois, a man decided that straightjackets, floating silver balls, and a storefront full of rubber severed heads were the ingredients for the American Dream. That man was Andy Dallas—and for nearly half a century he ran the weirdest, wildest, most gloriously unhinged magic & costume emporium east of Vegas and west of whatever passes for normal in Indiana.

Dallas & Co. Costumes & Magic (101 E. University Ave, Champaign) wasn't a shop. It was a portal. Walk through the door and you entered a fever dream where a 7-foot animatronic grim reaper might high-five a life-sized Yoda while a teenager tried on a Freddy Krueger glove next to a display of Zombie Balls and vanishing canes. Andy Dallas didn't just sell magic—he lived it, breathed it, and occasionally got suspended from skyscrapers in it.

His origin story reads like a pulp novel written by a very caffeinated Houdini fanboy. At age 11 he saw his first magic show and was instantly ruined for normal life. By his early 20s he was already staging public escapes that made local news anchors sweat. In 1976 he dangled 21 stories above downtown Champaign in a regulation straightjacket, legs kicking like a man trying to outrun gravity itself. The crowd below held its collective breath; Andy slipped free, waved like he'd just finished folding laundry, and rappelled

Jasper Flint

down to thunderous applause and at least one very confused pigeon.

That stunt was merely the opening act.

Over the next 45 years Andy became the undisputed Midwest king of the **Zombie Ball**—that gleaming silver sphere that floats, rolls across the arms, and generally behaves like it's mocking Newton's laws. The Finger-Flicking Frolic (a very serious magic society with a very unserious name) crowned him the best Zombie Ball performer on the planet. He could make the ball dance on a silk scarf like it was auditioning for Cirque du Soleil while cracking dry one-liners about how much better the ball was at defying gravity than his ex-wife's cooking.

But Andy wasn't content with floating balls and skyscraper escapes. In 1971 he and his wife Barbara opened Dallas & Co. What started as a tiny arcade-and-costume joint metastasized into the most legendary weird-goods emporium in the region. By the 1980s you could buy:

- A professional-grade straightjacket (tested personally by the owner)
- Every rubber appliance Distortions Unlimited ever made
- A full set of "No Tear 2" newspaper (Andy co-invented the damn thing with Mark Mason)
- Enough fake blood to stage the Red Wedding
- And actual working animatronics that would make Halloween Horror Nights jealous

The infamous **Haunted Room** attraction was basically a walk-in panic attack: strobe lights, air blasts, chainsaw sounds, and a very convincing severed head that blinked at you. Kids would scream. Parents would laugh nervously. Andy would stand at the register with a serene smile, knowing he'd just sold another \$12 rubber rat to the traumatized 10-year-old who swore he was "totally fine."

He served as President of the Society of American Magicians (2006–2007), lectured internationally, performed for decades in the Champaign-Urbana area, and still found time to personally demonstrate every trick to wide-eyed kids who wandered in clutching crumpled allowance money. One customer described him as "the most earnest lunatic I've ever met." Another said, "He once made my quarter vanish, then pulled it out of my ear while telling me my wife was cheating on me with the mailman. I laughed so hard I forgot to be mad."

COVID finally did what no straightjacket, skyscraper, or angry clown ever could: it forced Andy into retirement. In late 2020, after 49 years, Dallas & Co. closed for good. The final Halloween blowout was part wake, part circus, part group therapy session for everyone who'd ever bought a whoopee cushion there.

In 2022 the legendary collection went to auction—props, animatronics, vintage carnival games, escape-art posters, rubber limbs, the works. People flew in from three states just to own a piece of the madness.

Andy didn't vanish. He's still around, still lecturing on the Zombie Ball, still doing small private shows, and probably still keeping a spare straightjacket in the trunk "just in case." At 70-something he remains proof that if you love something enough—whether it's floating chrome or hanging upside-down 200 feet above an Illinois cornfield—you can turn it into a life.

So here's to Andy Dallas: escape artist, Zombie Ball deity, haunted-house proprietor, inventor, lecturer, and the man who proved that sometimes the greatest trick of all is convincing a college town that a store full of severed heads and magic wands is the most normal thing in the world.

The storefront is gone.

The magic never left.

(And somewhere, a silver ball is still floating—just to spite gravity and anyone who ever doubted Andy Dallas.)

- Jasper Flint



Next month's issue: Opinion

Why are magician comics so bad?

We delve into the how's and why's of why magicians think they're funny, but they're not - with very few exceptions.



When you forgot to hide the dove...
and your pants.

THE NEW YORKER

When your magic trick is just an excuse to show your cat



Discussing the finer points of misdirection over drinks... and other things



When you try to go green but the universe has other plans... like pigeons



The eternal struggle of the double act... when your partner is a bird



When your romantic gesture backfires spectacularly... and you realize it's a glass box



Age is just a number, until it's not... and you're serving Jell-O to your date



Seriously? Who in the world is still drawing these horrible things? They weren't funny as far back as 1988 when Milton Berle was taking a twist in his BVDs on network television commercials. - **Giovanni Vulcano**



**PRODUCT CATALOG
APRIL 2026**

INFINITY CHALICE

STAINLESS STEEL LUXURY EDITION
HALF DOLLAR

"It's like 'Coins Across', one of my favorite routines to perform, only sideways! Everyone wants a closer look at the Infinity Chalice." —

★★★★★

"A great piece of magic for the collector and for the performer. Beautifully made and very easy for the less experienced magician." —

★★★★★

"This is a terrific routine that combines many principles into one cohesive routine that is easy to follow and easy to perform." — ★★★★★





Perform the impossible penetration with the Infinity Chalice by Sly Designs

Created by Sam Sléibhín, the Infinity Chalice is a precision-engineered, double-ended stainless steel vessel that turns classic coin magic into a visual stunner: four half dollars visibly placed into the top seemingly melt through solid metal—one by one—to emerge cleanly at the bottom, defying physics in the most direct, impossible way.

Everything is examinable before and after: the gimmicked 303 stainless steel chalice (beautifully machined with a sleek, modern design), the custom gimmicked US half dollar, and four matching ungimmicked halves. Packaged in a custom black ASA case for protection and portability.

No difficult sleights, no awkward angles—just elegant, deceptive mechanics combined with a strong, easy-to-follow routine that builds astonishment step by step.

- **Precision machined** in durable 303 stainless steel for lasting beauty and smooth performance
- **Complete kit** — chalice, gimmicked coin, four matching halves, and protective case
- **Examinable** — spectators can inspect everything upfront, heightening the impossibility
- **Step-by-step video tutorial** included to master the routine quickly
- **Made in the USA** by veterans and world-renowned magicians—professional-grade, pocket-ready, and built to impress

Perfect for close-up magicians, coin workers, collectors of impossible objects, or anyone who loves high-impact, visual magic that leaves audiences speechless. Display it as a sculptural piece... or perform it to create unforgettable moments.

INFINITY CHALICE

STAINLESS STEEL STANDARD
EDITION - HALF DOLLAR



Watch demo: https://youtu.be/SHVQIEMG40?si=uhH131qVCWEwhh_B

Perform the impossible penetration with the Infinity Chalice by Sly Designs

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Everything is examinable before and after: the gimmicked 303 stainless steel chalice (beautifully machined with a sleek, modern design), the custom gimmicked US half dollar.

No difficult sleights, no awkward angles—just elegant, deceptive mechanics combined with a strong, easy-to-follow routine that builds astonishment step by step.

- **Precision machined** in durable 303 stainless steel for lasting beauty and smooth performance
- **Complete essentials** — chalice, gimmicked coin
- **Examinable** — spectators can inspect everything upfront, heightening the impossibility
- **Step-by-step video tutorial** included to master the routine quickly
- **Made in the USA** by veterans and world-renowned magicians—professional-grade, pocket-ready, and built to impress

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INFINITY CHALICE

ALUMINUM EDITION - HALF DOLLAR



Watch demo: <https://youtu.be/uDOWQQAunWI?si=HKiD-kaNgSEAaMuG>

Perform the impossible penetration with the Infinity Chalice by Sly Designs

Created by Sam Sléibhín, the Infinity Chalice is a precision-engineered, double-ended stainless steel vessel that turns classic coin magic into a visual stunner: four half dollars visibly placed into the top seemingly melt through solid metal—one by one—to emerge cleanly at the bottom, defying physics in the most direct, impossible way.

Everything is examinable before and after: the gimmicked aircraft quality aluminum chalice (beautifully machined with a sleek, modern design), the custom gimmicked US half dollar.

No difficult sleights, no awkward angles—just elegant, deceptive mechanics combined with a strong, easy-to-follow routine that builds astonishment step by step.

- **Precision machined** in aircraft grade aluminum for lasting beauty and smooth performance
- **Complete essentials** — chalice, gimmicked coin
- **Examinable** — spectators can inspect everything upfront, heightening the impossibility
- **Step-by-step video tutorial** included to master the routine quickly
- **Made in the USA** by veterans and world-renowned magicians—professional-grade, pocket-ready, and built to impress

Perfect for close-up magicians, coin workers, collectors of impossible objects, or anyone who loves high-impact, visual magic that leaves audiences speechless. Display it as a sculptural piece... or perform it to create unforgettable moments.

INFINITY CHALICE

BUDGET EDITION - QUARTERS

"Beautifully made and very easy for the less experienced magician. A great piece for the performer on a budget." — ★★★★★

"This is a terrific routine... easy to follow and easy to perform. The plastic version is surprisingly solid and deceptive!" — ★★★★★



Get started with impossible coin magic on a budget: Infinity Chalice Plastic Edition by Sly Designs

Created by Adam Goldenstein, the Infinity Chalice Plastic Edition delivers the same jaw-dropping penetration illusion as our premium models—at an accessible price point. Four quarters visibly placed into the top of the double-ended chalice melt through solid material—one by one—to emerge cleanly at the bottom, creating a direct, physics-defying visual that leaves spectators stunned.

This budget-friendly version features a durable, lightweight 3D-printed black ASA plastic gimmicked chalice (sleek and modern-looking) paired with a custom gimmicked US quarter. You'll supply your own four matching ungimmicked quarters for the routine. Everything remains fully examinable before and after—no difficult sleights required, just smooth, deceptive mechanics and a strong, easy-to-perform sequence that builds astonishment naturally.

- **Affordable entry to premium effects** — same impossible penetration as the stainless and aluminum models, but lighter and smaller
- **Complete essentials** — 3D-printed gimmicked chalice + gimmicked US quarter (add your own matching quarters)
- **Examinable** — spectators can handle and inspect the chalice and coins upfront, amplifying the mystery
- **Step-by-step video tutorial** included to learn the routine quickly and confidently
- **Made in the USA** by veterans and world-renowned magicians—reliable, performer-ready, and built for real-world use

Ideal for aspiring magicians, coin enthusiasts on a budget, or anyone wanting high-impact visual magic without the premium investment. Great as a starter prop, backup, or travel-friendly version—perform it close-up, display it casually, and watch reactions turn to "no way!"

UNHINGED DECK

“This is incredible. The possibilities with this deck are literally limited only by the imagination” - ★★★★★



Watch Demo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2zTZHBKeTY4>

INVISIBLE HINGE TECHNOLOGY

Bills, billets, rings, toys...

Make anything that fits in the deck appear quicker than the eye can see.



Unleash endless creativity with the Unhinged Deck by Sly Designs

Created by Sam Sléibhín, the Unhinged Deck is the modern upgrade to his original “Forever Deck”. The Unhinged Deck appears to be a perfectly ordinary deck of Bicycle-style playing cards—until you reveal its secret: the entire deck cleverly folds open like a book, exposing a hidden cavity perfect for loading and vanishing small objects (rings, coins, billets, predictions, and more).

The removable hinge allows for truly "unhinged" versatility—detach it completely for standalone effects, reconfigure the deck in surprising ways, or combine with other Sly Designs pieces for layered impossibilities. Infinite performance options await: classic ring-in-box routines, impossible productions, vanishes, transpositions, or even hybrid effects blending with your kirigami topology cards.

Everything is built for real-world performance: smooth, silent operation, examinable appearance (looks and feels like a standard deck at first glance), and durable construction that holds up to repeated use.

- **Deceptive utility deck** — masquerades as a real Bicycle deck while hiding a spacious, accessible compartment
- **Removable hinge** — unlocks infinite handling variations and custom setups
- **Pocket-sized powerhouse** — compact, portable, and ready for close-up or stage
- **Step-by-step video tutorial** included to master loading, routines, and creative applications quickly
- **Made in the USA** by veterans and world-renowned magicians—professional-grade, reliable, and built to astonish

Perfect for magicians seeking a fresh, multi-purpose prop, mentalists incorporating predictions or switches, or collectors of ingenious gimmicks that spark "how is this possible?" moments. Display it innocently on the table... then unleash the unhinged magic inside.

COIN CYLINDER NOUVEAU

“Finally, a fresh take on the classic Cylinder and Coins that feels modern and performer-friendly! The Coin Cylinder Nouveau from Sly Designs has a sleek, elegant design—nothing like the old leather ones—and the coins move through it in the cleanest, most visual way. The mechanics are deceptive and smooth; no fumbling, no bad angles. Everything's examinable at the start and end, which kills any suspicion. The video tutorial is spot-on and helped me nail the routine in one sitting. This has become my go-to for table-hopping—spectators freak out every time.” ★★★★★



Watch demo: <https://youtu.be/2WEIne0IVAk?si=bj-OZfVdAPd2QI3f>

Master the timeless impossible with Coin Cylinder Nouveau by Sly Designs

Created by Sam Sléibhín, the Coin Cylinder Nouveau reimagines the legendary Cylinder and Coins routine with a fresh, elegant twist: a sleek, precision-crafted cylinder that allows silver dollar coins (or half dollars) to impossibly appear in the cylinder one at a time, under impossible conditions—leaving audiences questioning reality.

Unlike traditional cork-and-leather versions, this Nouveau model features a modern, streamlined design with deceptive built-in mechanics that feel natural and foolproof. Show the cylinder empty, vanish a coin from your hand, and show the coin under the cylinder. Repeat the process twice more and watch them appear inside in the cylinder in the cleanest, most visual manner possible.



Everything is built for professional performance: fully examinable at the start and finish (no suspicious moves), smooth handling, and durable construction that withstands real-world use.

- **Unique Nouveau design** — modern aesthetics meet classic impossibility for standout visuals
- **Incredible carrying case** — a unique designed case that looks like a coin roll from the U.S. Department of Treasury carries the coins and cylinder to keep them together and safe
- **Silver dollar/half dollar compatibility** — works with standard coins for easy resets and audience handling
 - a. Silver dollar size includes coins
 - b. Half dollar size **does not** include coins
- **Examinable throughout** — spectators can inspect the cylinder and coins, heightening the deception
- **Step-by-step video tutorial** included to learn the full routine and handling variations quickly
- **Made in the USA** by veterans and world-renowned magicians—compact, reliable, and engineered for astonishment

Perfect for coin magicians performing close-up miracles, Ramsay/Conover-inspired routines, or collectors seeking a beautiful, innovative prop that blends artistry and deception. Display it as a sculptural piece on your table... then unleash the Nouveau magic that makes coins dance through the impossible.



Unmatched durability — the cylinder has been tested to hold over 200 lbs of load weight, ensuring that it will withstand the toughest conditions.

KIRIGAMI CARDS™

THE MAGIC OF INNOVATION IN EVERY FOLD



KIRIGAMI CARDS

Discover impossible elegance with Kirigami Cards by Sly Designs

Experience the art of the impossible: each Kirigami Card is a single, precision-precut playing card transformed into a mind-bending topological sculpture through clever folds and interlocking cuts.

One piece. Pre-cut. No assembly required beyond a few precise folds—yet the result is a stunning, two-sided work of art that defies expectation: a card impossibly linked to itself, looped in ways that seem to break the rules of reality.

Crafted with proprietary micro-perforation technology on premium playing card stock, these designs blend kirigami artistry, mathematical topology, and magician's ingenuity—creating pocket-sized wonders that are as beautiful displayed flat or folded as they are perplexing to onlookers.

- **Single-card marvel** — no extra pieces, just one elegantly engineered card
- **Pre-cut precision** for effortless, clean performance or display
- **Two-sided artistry** — intricate cuts reveal stunning patterns and illusions from both sides
- **Step-by-step video tutorial** included (link provided) to master the "impossible" folds quickly
- **Made in the USA** by veterans and world-renowned magicians—compact, durable, and endlessly fascinating

Perfect for magicians, puzzle collectors, artists, or anyone who loves objects that spark wonder and conversation. Perform, display, or gift a true conversation starter that looks like ordinary art... until it isn't.

The **Kirigami Cards™ collection by Sly Designs** features our proprietary micro-perforation technology—a precision innovation that brings the intricate, time-intensive art of kirigami to life in seconds.

What once required hours of meticulous cutting with a hobby knife (and often imperfect results and cut fingers) is now effortless: each card arrives fully prepared and ready to fold right out of the box. Simply separate along the micro-perforations, follow the included video tutorial, and transform ordinary playing cards into stunning topological sculptures, impossible links, or geometric wonders.

This breakthrough makes kirigami accessible to magicians, puzzle enthusiasts, artists, and anyone who appreciates hands-on creativity—without the frustration or skill barrier.

Perfect for performers and gifting

Kirigami Cards™ double as magical giveaways: hand one to a spectator after a mind-blowing routine for a lasting, personalized souvenir. They're also ideal last-minute gifts—compact, thoughtful, and far more memorable than a forgotten birthday card (especially when your magic budget has already taken a hit!).

With new designs added monthly, the possibilities are truly endless—whether you're performing "impossible" folds, building modular polyhedra, or exploring mathematical art.

Package includes a variety of 12 different Kirigami Cards. Each package is different so you never know which cards (not the color, suit, nor pattern) you are going to receive! Collect them all!

Visit the following link for a demo:

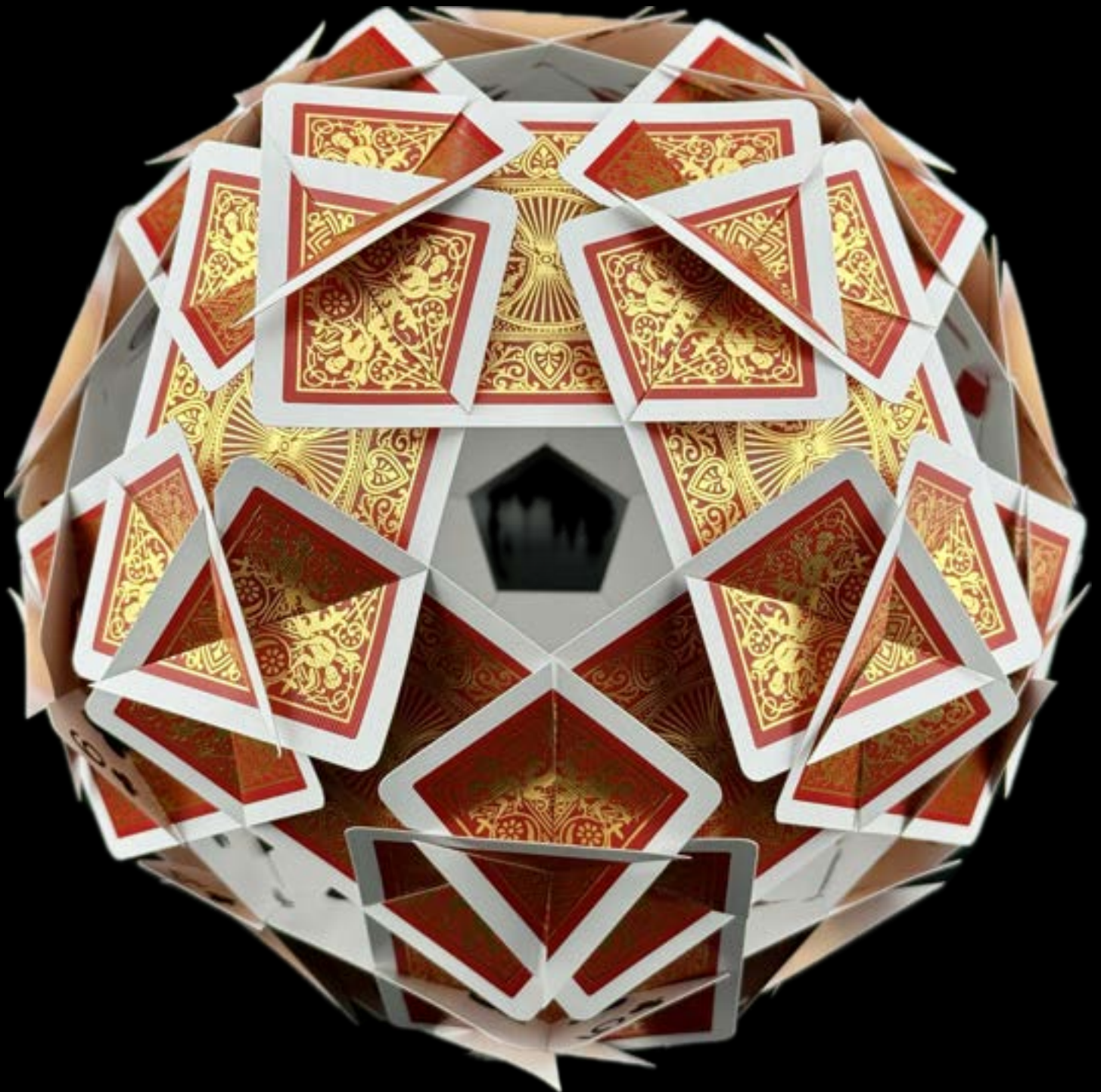
<https://youtu.be/fYZajstcN3Y>

TURN YOUR CARDS INTO A TWO-SIDED WORK OF ART



Display cases not included

POLYHEDRON COLLECTION



DO-DECK-A-HEDRON

Elevate curiosity into creation with this captivating geometric masterpiece.

Transform 30 precision, pre-cut playing cards into a mesmerizing twelve-sided polyhedron, inspired by the innovative modular kirigami designs of renowned mathematician and artist **George Hart**.

No glue, no tape—just clever interlocking slots and folds that reveal an elegant, symmetrical sculpture blending art, mathematics, and playful wonder.

Includes a clear step-by-step video tutorial link to guide you smoothly from flat cards to finished form.

Perfect for puzzle enthusiasts, math lovers, artists, or anyone seeking a meditative, mind-expanding hands-on project that results in a beautiful, display-worthy object.

Available in 32 or 56 card packages. Full decks are left or right cut.



THE FACET FELON

"This thing is pure gold for magicians! The Do-Deck-a-Hedron assembles into a gorgeous dodecahedron in minutes thanks to the flawless pre cut cards and clear video tutorial.

But the real killer is the signed card routine: spectator signs a card, it vanishes, and then—bam—it's impossibly linked right inside the polyhedron, woven through the geometric structure like it was always there.

The 'how the hell?' reactions are *insane*—it's visual, impossible, and the polyhedron makes an amazing, lasting giveaway.

Already a staple in my set—highly recommend for anyone blending puzzles with magic!" ★★★★★



THE FACET FELON

THE FACT FELON

THE PERFECT CRIME.

COMMITTED IN PLAIN SIGHT.

A spectator signs their card.

They watch it vanish.

Then — in a single, impossible instant — their signed card **appears locked inside** a solid, woven 30-card dodecahedron.

It's a breathtaking geometric sculpture of 30 playing cards — every edge perfectly interlocked — and their signed card impossibly trapped at the very center, visible from every angle.

It's apparently not coming out without destroying the dodecahedron.

Visually impossible. Incredibly easy to perform.

30-card woven dodecahedron · Instant signed-card appearance · Basic sleight of hand

Available exclusively from Sly Designs.

Limited first-run edition.

Steal one before they're gone.



3-Burr Puzzles



"What a deceptive little gem! As a magician, I love how innocent it looks—just three Bicycle-style cards—until you start slotting them together and it forms this sturdy, 3D structure that feels solid. The precision cuts are top-notch (pips even align beautifully when assembled). I've used it as a quick desk toy during gigs, and it always draws people in for a closer look. Assembling is fun and meditative. Sly Designs nailed the balance of puzzle difficulty and elegance. Worth every penny—get it before your magic buddies do!" ★★★★★

Unlock the magic of geometry with the 3-Burr Puzzle by Sly Designs

Challenge your mind and hands with this ingenious kirigami-inspired burr puzzle: assemble three precision, pre-cut playing cards into a perfectly interlocked, three-dimensional structure that echoes classic wooden burr designs—but in a compact, elegant, and impossibly clever form. Based on puzzle creator **George Miller's** design.

No glue, no tools, no frustration—just clever slots and folds that click satisfyingly into place, creating a sturdy, display-worthy polyhedral sculpture. Inspired by the interlocking genius of traditional burr puzzles (where pieces slide and notch in surprising ways), this version transforms ordinary Bicycle-style cards into a pocket-sized brain teaser that's equal parts art, mathematics, and magic.

- **Precision micro-perforated** for clean, easy separation
- **Step-by-step video tutorial** included to guide you from flat cards to finished form
- **Made in the USA** by veterans and magicians—compact enough for travel, intriguing enough for endless puzzling
- **Perfect for** puzzle lovers, math enthusiasts, card magicians, or anyone who appreciates thoughtful, hands-on creativity

Once assembled, admire (or show off) your creation—then disassemble and rebuild for repeat challenges. A fresh take on burr puzzles that feels delightfully impossible until it clicks. Partial deck Includes 12 cards, 4 puzzles per package; full deck included 54 cards, 18 puzzles per package.

"Bought this on a whim after seeing it on Instagram, and wow—it's way cooler than I expected! Super easy to separate the pre-cut cards, and the tutorial video walks you through assembly perfectly. Once together, it's this neat little polyhedral burr that looks like modern art on my shelf. My kids (teens) fought over who got to solve it first, and we all got it on the second try. Five stars for the fun factor!"



PYRO-BALLS



Pyro-Balls by Sly Designs

The Impossible Location That's Been Hiding in Plain Sight the Whole Show

If you've ever wanted a single prop that feels like pure fire—both literally and figuratively—Sly Designs just dropped the one you've been waiting for.

Here's the miracle:

You borrow a spectator's ring (or coin, watch, key—anything small). It vanishes cleanly using whatever method you prefer—classic palm, thumb tip, whatever. The ring is gone. The spectator is already nervous. You gesture toward the innocent-looking Pyro-Ball that's been sitting in full view on the table the entire time and say:

"I think your ring has been trying to get warm..."

You pick up the ball, give it a gentle shake... and the ring clinks inside. You disassemble the ball and tip it forward. The spectator's ring drops out into their hand.

That's it. No suspicious moves. The ball has been in plain sight the entire performance, and the reappearance feels genuinely impossible.

Why Performers Are Losing Their Minds Over It

- **Confabulation ready** – The ball sits out from the first moment of your set. When the ring appears inside it ten minutes later, the audience literally rewrites their own memory: "Wait... that thing was there the whole time?!"
- **Minimal sleight of hand required for the climax** – The gimmick does all the heavy lifting.

- **Works with any small object** – Rings are perfect, but signed coins, folded billets, borrowed earrings, even a spectator's tooth (don't ask) have all been used successfully in testing.
- **Audience-tested favorite** – Every single performer who's field-tested Pyro-Balls has reported the same reaction: stunned silence followed by an explosion of applause and "how the hell..." questions.
- **Incredibly easy** – Learn it in under five minutes, perform it the same night.

The finish is so clean and so visual that magicians who normally hate "gimmick" effects are calling this their new closer. It's elegant, dramatic, and plays just as strongly for 8 people at a restaurant table as it does for 80 at a corporate event.

Pyro-Balls are made in the USA by magicians and machinists who actually understand what close-up performers need. Each set includes enough cards for 9 ball (which can be reused for multiple performances or given away as a souvenir, a video tutorial that covers multiple handlings and multiple routine ideas to get your creative wheels turning.

If you've been looking for that one impossible-location piece that feels fresh, looks amazing, and actually delivers the reaction you dream about... *this is it*.

Grab one before someone else does... and then watch your spectators lose their minds when their ring drops out of a ball that's been sitting in full view the entire show.

Video Demo:

<https://youtu.be/NvilkAwWxpA>



Ignite geometric wonder with the Pyro-Balls featuring Andrea Hawksley's 6-Card Ball Design by Sly Designs

Assemble six precision, pre-cut playing cards into a compact, interlocking spherical polyhedron that conceals a stunning secret: an elegant dodecahedron clearly visible at its core.

Created by mathematical artist **Andrea Hawksley**, this clever design uses just six cards—each ingeniously representing **two faces** of the underlying regular dodecahedron—resulting in a structure with **pyritohedral symmetry** (a fascinating subgroup of icosahedral symmetry, blending full dodecahedral beauty with pyrite-like distortions). The result is a mesmerizing, soccer-ball-like orb that's both a visual delight and a subtle mathematical puzzle.

No glue, no tape—just slotting and interlocking folds that click satisfyingly into place, revealing intricate patterns and a harmonious, display-worthy sculpture from every angle.

- **Six-card modular marvel** — compact yet structurally rich
- **Pre-cut precision** on premium playing card stock for clean separation and effortless assembly
- **Hidden dodecahedron core** with pyritohedral symmetry — a beautiful fusion of art and advanced geometry
- **Two-sided artistry** — stunning interlocking designs visible inside and out
- **Step-by-step video tutorial** included (link provided) to guide you from flat cards to finished ball
- **Made in the USA** by veterans and magicians—pocket-portable, durable, and endlessly intriguing



TUNNEL CUBE



THE TUNNEL CUBE

Inspired by mathematical artist George Hart

MATH MEETS MAGIC. GEOMETRY MEETS YOUR AUDIENCE.

Twelve ordinary playing cards. Pre-cut with precision slots.

Interlock in minutes to form a striking, open-structured cube — elegant tunnels piercing straight through every face to the center.

A geometric marvel: six clean square tunnels (plus hidden passages) create an impossible-looking lattice of cards that holds itself together without glue, tape, or tricks.

Spectators can't stop staring.

They turn it in their hands, peer through the tunnels, marvel at the symmetry — a perfect blend of art, math, and wonder.

The ideal post-show giveaway.

Far more sophisticated than balloon animals.

Far more memorable than a signed card alone.

Hand it to them at the end of your show:

“Your souvenir — a little piece of impossible geometry. Scan the QR code on the custom card for more magic and my next show.”

Boost your merch table instantly.

Compact, lightweight, packs flat in a sleek envelope.

Audience members buy extras for friends, kids, offices — “I have to show this to someone!”

THE TUNNEL CUBE

24 precision pre-slit playing cards, enough cards for two cubes • Inspired by George Hart • Assembles into a 10 cm sculptural cube with fourteen tunnels • No tools required

Limited edition — because elegance sells out.

Where magic folds into mathematics.

FOLDING FROG



Make their card... leap back to them. 🐸

Imagine this:

A card is freely selected and **signed**. It's lost in the deck—no control, no funny moves. The cards are spread across the table. The moment is over... or so it seems.

Then you reach into your pocket and remove something unexpected.

A **tiny origami frog**.

You place it on the table and show how it hops with a simple press of your finger. The room laughs. It's charming. Impossible not to smile.

Then you hand the frog to your spectator.

"Your frog knows where your card is. Just make it hop."

The frog jumps across the spread and lands on a card. The spectator turns it over...

Not their card.

But when the magician checks the spread, something is very wrong.

Their signed card is gone.

All eyes return to the frog.

Slowly... the paper frog is unfolded.

Layer by layer.

Fold by fold.

Until the truth appears in their own handwriting.

The frog was their signed card the entire time.



What Makes *The Frog Deck* Special

Pre-Scored Precision

Every card is expertly scored to allow **rapid, one-handed folding** into a perfect origami frog without even looking..

Fast & Practical

Fold the frog in seconds—even under fire.

A Complete Magical Moment

Part magic trick, part playful theater, part impossible souvenir.

Interactive & Memorable

The spectator makes the frog hop themselves before the stunning revelation.

Perfect For

- Close-up magic
- Walk-around performers
- Table hopping
- Social media magic
- Magicians who love **visual, impossible endings**
- Simple giveaways

A signed card.

A hopping frog.

An impossible transformation.

The Frog Deck turns a simple card trick into a moment they'll talk about long after the frog stops hopping.

The magic... leaps into their hands. 🐸✨

Sly Designs – Revolutionary Innovations in Sly Deceptions

Available in full 56 card decks (red or blue) or partial 20 (random cards with mixed colors) card packaging.

CANNIBAL DECK



Because sometimes the cards don't just vanish...

They get eaten.

What happens when a deck of cards **eats itself?**

You're left with **The Cannibal Deck.**

Crafted from a genuine Bicycle deck, every single pip, index, and piece of artwork has been **meticulously cut away**—leaving behind a haunting collection of hollowed-out cards.

No printing.

No gimmicked ink.

Just the **bones of the deck.**

The Perfect Impossible Ending

Imagine performing the classic Cannibal Kings.

The kings devour the other cards one by one... until the deck is spread to reveal a shocking finale:

Every card has been eaten.

All that remains are the empty outlines where the pips used to be.

Or picture this...

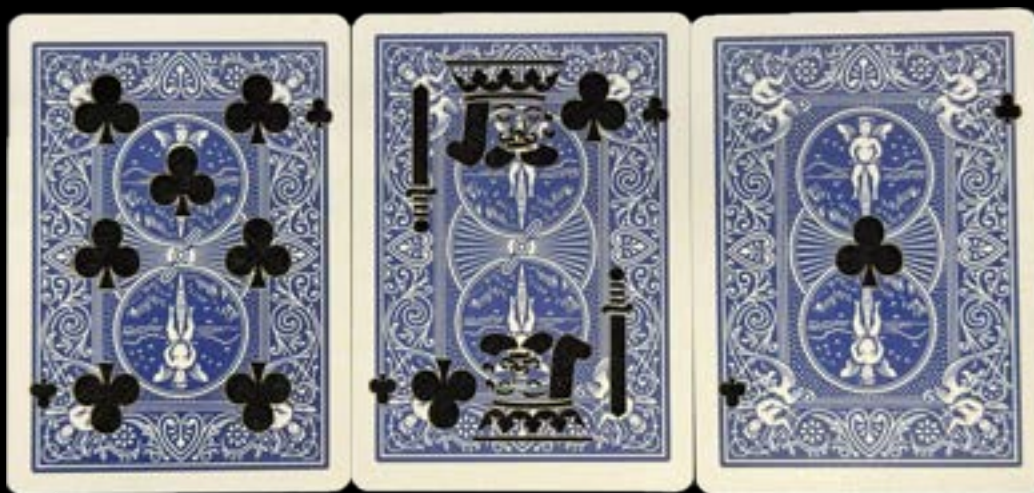
You finish any ambitious card routine.

A quick deck switch.

You spread the cards across the table.

Gasps.

The entire deck has been **consumed from the inside out.**



A Tool for Creative Magicians

The **Cannibal Deck** is not a trick in itself.

It's a **powerful visual prop** that unlocks dozens of routines:

- A killer ending for **Cannibal Kings**
- A surreal finale for **Ambitious Card**
- A shocking deck-switch revelation
- A bizarre close-up storytelling piece
- A haunting display for bizarre magic

If you can imagine it... this deck can sell it.

Built for Impact

- ✓ Made from a genuine Bicycle deck
- ✓ Precision-cut artwork and pips
- ✓ Fully usable blank-face framework cards
- ✓ Perfect for dramatic spreads and reveals

Every card looks like it has been **slowly devoured**.

Limited Seasonal Release

The **Cannibal Deck** is a **limited seasonal edition** from Sly Designs.

When they're gone...

They're **gone**.

No restocks - until next year!

The Infinity Link

Link a card to itself. Link a ring to the card. Impossibly.

"Hands down one of the coolest topological card effects I've added to my arsenal! The Infinity Link by Sly Designs is genius—a single Bicycle card with those sneaky micro-perforations that are basically invisible until you pop the shape. Fold it, and suddenly you have an 'impossible' self-linked loop that you can thread a spectator's ring through effortlessly. The reveal is pure astonishment—clean, visual, and examinable. Tutorial is clear and quick; I had it performance-ready in an hour. Great for walk-around, table magic, or as a giveaway souvenir. Sly Designs' precision and magician-crafted vibe make this feel premium. If you're into impossible objects or linking effects, grab this—it's a worker!" ★★★★★



Watch demo: <https://youtu.be/mOWh40OePeQ?si=nj0IrtVHtd0ZRRtS>

Experience true topological impossibility with Infinity Link Cards by Sly Designs

Created by award-winning magician Sam Sléibhín, the Infinity Link Card turns a single Bicycle playing card into an astonishing, self-linked topological wonder: an "impossible" object where the card appears to link through itself in endless, reality-defying loops.

One piece. Pre-cut. No assembly or extra components—just precise folds that reveal a mind-bending structure you can actually thread rings, strings, or small objects through, creating visual paradoxes that look physically impossible.

The proprietary micro-perforated cuts (nearly invisible when flat) allow the card to transform seamlessly, showcasing intricate, symmetrical patterns from both sides—a true two-sided work of art that blends kirigami precision, advanced topology, and magician's ingenuity.

- **Single-card topology marvel** — one elegantly engineered card does it all
- **Pre-cut precision** for clean, effortless transformation
- **Two-sided artistry** — stunning interlocking designs visible and beautiful from every angle
- **Linking capability** — link rings, chains, or objects in ways that defy logic
- **Step-by-step video tutorial** included (link provided) to master the folds and handling quickly
- **Made in the USA** by veterans and world-renowned magicians—pocket-sized, durable, and endlessly perplexing

Perfect for anyone performing visual impossibilities, puzzle collectors seeking topological challenges, artists admiring geometric beauty, or anyone who loves objects that spark awe and endless "how did you do that?" moments. Display flat as subtle art... or link it up to blow minds.

KIRIGAMI CLUB



Subscribe to join the Kirigami Club. Every month you'll receive :

- A new pack of our newest Kirigami Card designs
- Opportunities to beta-test our new products - that means free magic products!
- 10% off everything listed in our online store.
- Full access to all of our hidden online videos.
- Access to our weekly internet jam session - which has been described as "a wildly unique experience"
- Early-bird purchasing of our new products before they're available to anyone else.
- Plus much, much more!

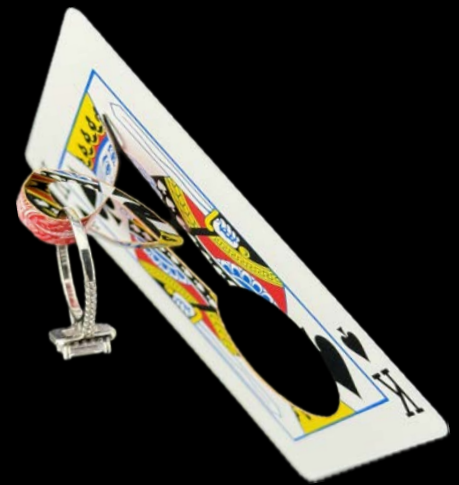
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Dealer inquiries, please email.

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The Magic Industry's #1 satirical magazine