

FRED KAPS' CURRENCY

Edward Victor's 11 Card Trick done with Dollar Bills

From a manuscript written by Fred Kaps

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FOREWORD

by

Anthony Brahams

The details and inner working of this routine have been kept secret since the days of Fred Kaps; before then it was only divulged to a handful of very close friends, and occasionally discussed by Fred Kaps with serious performers such as Trevor Lewis who had put together a routine from watching Fred Kaps, before meeting him. Subsequently the original routine has been independently developed, changed and adapted by Trevor, Mike Caveney, Peter Pit, Ger Copper and other well-known performers to suit their own individual styles.

The transcript of the manuscript in Fred Kaps' handwriting has only been very slightly edited. It is substantially the routine Fred always presented, except for a variation near the end. This was suggested, with temerity, by Trevor Lewis who was delighted by the enthusiastic and grateful acceptance of it by the Master!

Following the Fred Kaps Routine is that of Trevor Lewis, including his patter. The routine leads ideally to the inclusion of many "bits of business". Trevor's own are not given here as he may include them in a forthcoming book. However publishing should only give an idea of what can be done and should not be slavishly copied. Experienced performers will find gags and "shtick" from their repertoire, memory and library or notes to enhance an already entertaining magical routine.

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INTRODUCTION

by

Fred Kaps

The first time I saw somebody do a card counting trick, whereby cards were short or more than there should be, it struck me immediately: this should be done with **BILLS!!** I guess this was about 25 years ago.

When working on a new act for the 1961 convention I wanted to include a bill counting effect but could not find the right routine. It was not until 1974 that I really started to work on it after I met Mike Skinner again in Monte Carlo. He showed Edward Victor's 11 Card Trick and I was very impressed. He was friendly enough to give me the outline of the routine and once home I started working on it with Dollar bills.

Of course I had to tackle the problem of palming bills off the packet and then getting rid of them.

First I used a handkerchief to hold the bills, then a bulldog clip, then a large paper-clip, all as an excuse to go to a pocket to ditch the bills; but then I found the most logical solution of all: the **WALLET!**

From there on it took only a few days to develop a solid routine that I could do anywhere - Close-Up, Cabaret, Stage - no set-up, always ready. I have shown this routine now hundreds of times for laymen and (up to now) fooled the best of magicians as well! It was terrific on TV in Holland and England and I hope you will do it justice by practising.

You need 20 Dollar bills, or stage money bills, and a wallet.

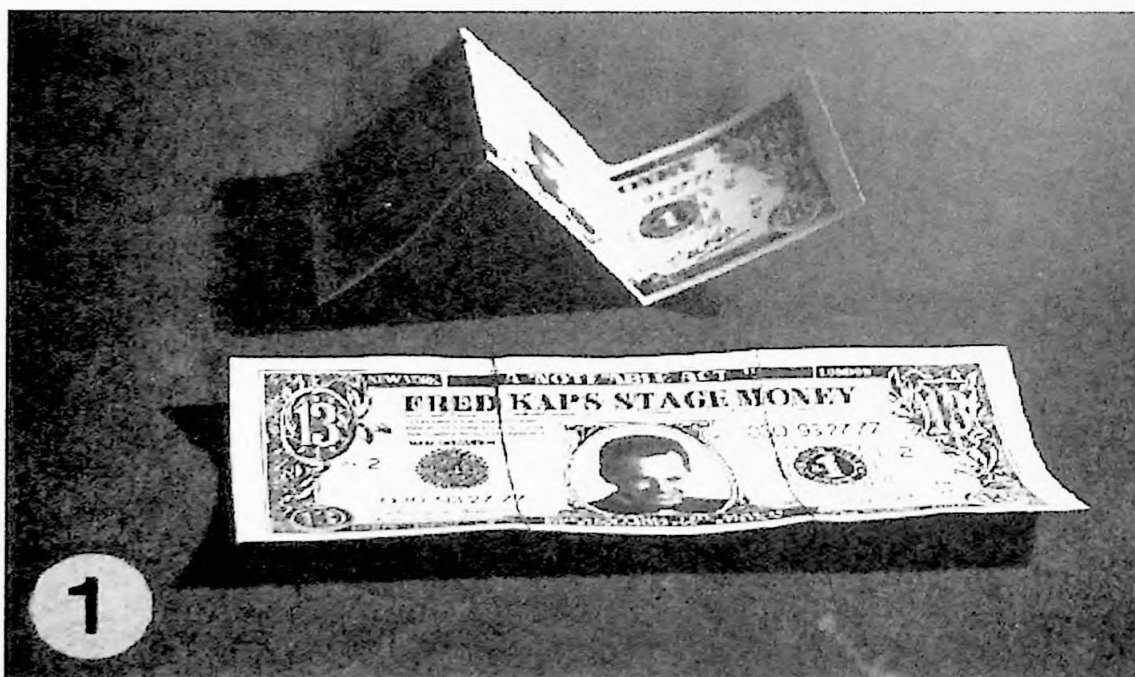
PREPARATION OF THE BILLS (the big secret!)

The description which follows is from the original manuscript where specially printed stage money was to be used. Regular US Dollar bills can, of course, be used, as may many other forms of currency, where necessary with appropriate modifications in the folding .

Fold each bill exactly in thirds (as the letter "Z") both ways. (With Fred Kaps' own bills the fold runs from between the last two sevens of his telephone number 932777 and against the end of the letter "D" of Fred.)

Put the bills one on top of the other (all facing the same way) and give them a lengthways bend (Photograph 1) which keeps the bills rigid when handled singly, without folding on the folds.

Put 18 bills one way in an empty wallet and put the other two bills in an outside pocket (or on your table) where you can reach them easily in case of emergency (like tearing one of the bills). Tearing is not likely to happen because the paper of the bills provided is carefully chosen to be strong. I still use the first set I ever made up!! (Note: the last sentence does refer to the stage money but applies to most countries' currency.)



THE ROUTINE

Put the wallet into the right inside pocket of your jacket. Make sure this pocket is otherwise empty. Ask two spectators, *"to help you out with some trouble"* you have. This is the theme of patter used.

Place one spectator on your left and one on your right. Take out your wallet and show your bunch of bills, telling them that you have trouble keeping track of your money.

Give the open wallet, with the bills laying on it, to the spectator on your left and ask her to count down into your hand eleven bills, one by one, and to count aloud so that everybody knows what is happening. Tell the spectator on your right to watch carefully so that no trickery can happen.

The spectator holding the bills and wallet is completely involved: he has one hand occupied holding the open wallet, and the other hand is counting the bills from the wallet onto your hand; therefore you have nothing to fear that he will try to foil things.

When the spectator is counting the bills into your hand let your left thumb fall on the left upper corner of the third bill (Photograph 2).



Let her continue until she has counted 11 bills. In the meantime you are talking to the audience, telling them, *"I always have trouble where money is concerned."* Of course you keep track of what the spectator at your left is doing.

When she has finished counting you ask her, *"How many bills did you give me?"* as you turn slightly towards her, squaring the bills and transferring the left thumb break to the left little finger (Photograph 3). When she answers turn to the spectator on the right and ask him, *"Is that correct?"*



During the turning from left to right you fold the three bills on the bottom under the packet by keeping the left hand (with three bills) still, and push the rest of the packet forward, putting the bills into your left hand (Photograph 4).

Turn to the spectator on the left again and put the eight unfolded bills to your left fingertips (Photograph 5).

Crossover with your right hand, take the rest of the bills (there will be seven) from your wallet and give them to the spectator on your right. Spectator to the left still has the wallet.



Take the wallet at the end from her with your right hand and place the eight bills from the left hand between the right first and second fingers (Photograph 6).

Right hand gives wallet a quarter turn to the left and puts it over the three folded bills in the left hand (Photograph 7). Left hand puts wallet and folded bills into right inside jacket pocket.

Say, "*Eleven bills. I'll count them once more to make sure.*"

False Count the eight bills as 10 (see the Appendix starting on page 13 for the False Count) and say that you are one bill short. Ask the spectator on your right to give you one more bill and say, "*Now we should have eleven.*"

False Count the nine bills as ten. "*Did you give me one?*" you ask the spectator on your right. "*Please give me one more bill because we need eleven.*" Count the bills normally as ten.

Give the bills to the spectator at the left as you say, "*I seem to be doing something wrong. Will you please count them one by one onto my hand and see how many we have.*" She counts ten bills onto your left hand and you exclaim, "*I told you! I guess we have to tackle this problem differently.*"

Turning to the spectator on your right you ask him to give you three more bills, one at a time. "*Now we have ten from you,*" you address the spectator at the left, "*and three from you,*" now looking at the spectator at the right, "*which makes thirteen altogether.*"

"*I don't need thirteen so I give you back two.*" Hand him two bills and announce, "*This should leave me with... thirteen minus two... equals... eleven!*" False Count the eleven bills as thirteen.

"*Did I give you two bills? That's odd; please take these two bills because I have two too many.*"

"*We should have eleven now - or I'll eat them!*"



False Count the nine bills as ELEVEN. This is the first time you actually show (count) ELEVEN bills. Hold the bills at the tips of your fingers and hand them to the spectator at your left asking her to count them back onto your left hand to show everybody, then say, *"All is fair now."*

Before she can start counting the bills, turn to the spectator on the right and ask for one bill. Put this on top of the bills in the other spectator's hand and say, *"Just in case."*

Let the left-hand spectator count the ten bills onto your left hand. During this counting you drop your left thumb on the corner of the fifth bill, as you did before on the third bill, to make the break, folding and stealing five cards this time. Whilst folding the five bottom bills you remark, *"Maybe you think I manipulated the bills,"* and laugh.

Your right hand takes the unfolded bills (five) from the left hand and the latter immediately goes to the right inside jacket pocket to take out the wallet, leaving the five folded bills behind.

Open the wallet, only using the left hand. Place the bills from the right hand onto the open wallet saying, *"I don't want to touch the bills anymore. (That is your excuse.) "Ten from you."*

Turn towards the spectator on the right and ask him to put five more bills on top of the bills on the wallet. He will then have no more bills left. *"Ten plus five equals fifteen,"* you say with some exasperation. Tell him, *"Just wait a moment and you will get some of them back."*

Turn to the spectator on your left and ask her to take ALL the bills from the wallet, count eleven back into the wallet and give the rest to the spectator on your right.

Spectator still counts TEN bills and so saying that you need eleven, you dismiss your assistants, thanking them for solving your problem!

Appendix

The Normal Count

Hold the bills flat in the left hand. With the left thumb push off one bill diagonally to the right. The right forefinger and thumb take the bill (Photograph 8).



Every time you take a bill from the left hand the right forefinger shoots straight out before grabbing the bill (Photograph 9).

Repeat with the second bill, taking it under the bill in the right hand.



Repeat with all the remaining bills in the same manner.

As soon as the right hand takes hold of a bill from the left hand, the hands separate with a quick jerk - the left hand a little towards the left, the right hand a little further to the right.

The False Count

After a count of two or three bills you imitate the same way of counting and grabbing of bills: the right forefinger shoots straight out to take the bill that the left thumb has pushed diagonally off from the left hand's packet.

However this time, as soon as the right forefinger hits this bill as if to add it to the bottom of the right hand's packet (Photograph 10), the left thumb pivots this bill back on to the left hand's packet (Photograph 11).



When the hands separate, the pushed-off bill and the bills in the right hand make a nice scraping sound, adding to the illusion.

Throughout the routine you only have to do the False Count twice at the most during a count.

You can do the False Count at any time after you have taken two or three bills into your right hand.

You can vary the time when you do the False Count to throw off your spectators who might think they are "on to it." So far I have never been challenged, and neither will you be if your timing of the Count is right.

The routine is automatically full of laughs as you will find out with this type of "situation comedy".



THE ELEVEN BILL TRICK

HANDLING BY TREVOR LEWIS

REQUIRED

A wallet containing eighteen dollar bills. The bills are folded in thirds with a valley and mountain fold, similar to the letters "Z" or "N".

A Fred Kaps type wallet.

Two jumbo five Dollar or Pound bills. These fake bills are available from magical dealers (e.g. Repro Magic, London).

PRESENTATION

Invite two spectators to join you. They stand on either side. Show the wallet to the assistant on your left and flash the bills.

Place the bills on the open wallet and rest it on the spectators left palm.

Say, *"Will you please count eleven bills, singly, individually or one at a time on to my left hand."*

When he commences the count, hold a break ABOVE the third bill with the left thumb. The VALLEY folds should be NEAREST the spectator. After the spectator has counted off the eleven bills, turn to the spectator on your right. As you turn your body to the right, fold the three bottom bills into thirds so they are hidden between the palm of the left hand and the other eight bills. Take the remaining seven bills off the wallet and hand them to the spectator on your right.

Address this spectator, *"Don't worry sir; I haven't forgotten you, you play a supporting role. You hold these.... I told you it was a supporting role."*

Turn back towards the spectator on your left, close and take the wallet between the first and second fingers of your right hand. Transfer the eight visible bills from the left hand to the right hand, holding them between the thumb and first finger. The left hand with the three concealed bills moves behind the wallet (Magician's view), holding it between the thumb and the open palm. The left hand replaces the wallet and dumps the three concealed bills into the inside jacket pocket.

Announce, *"I'd better take the wallet. If it's not there in the morning my wife gets suspicious."*

Display the eight notes.

"And now, the amazing eleven bill trick."

False count the eight bills as ten, performing a slip count on the third and seventh bills.

Look puzzled and turn to the spectator on your left.

"It's ten."

Turn to the spectator on your right and smile.

"Sir, we need eleven bills to perform this trick, may I borrow one of yours?"

The spectator on your right gives you a dollar bill.

"Thank you; and now the famous eleven bill trick."

False count the nine bills as ten performing a slip count on four. Look puzzled as you examine the bills and look at both spectators.

"Whatever it is, it's catching. You're not related to each other are you?"

Turn to spectator on your right.

"You see, I need eleven bills to do this trick. I only have ten. Show how generous you really are!"

Spectator on your right gives you another bill.

"Ladies and gentlemen, the delayed American eleven bill trick."

Transfer the bills singly from hand to hand, counting the bills as ten once again.

"Oh no! Not again."

Turn to the spectator on your left and hand him the bills.

"Maybe it's us. Will you please endorse our check."

The spectator on your left counts the bills as ten on to your left hand. Turn to the spectator on your right.

"It is ten."

Look at the bills.

"This has gone wrong three times, there are three of us, so will you please give me three bills."

The spectator on your right gives you three bills which you place on the ten.

"Wait; now I have thirteen but I only need eleven. So how many must I return to you, to leave me with eleven?"

"Are the questions too difficult?"

Spectator will hopefully say two.

"I knew I could count on you."

Return two bills from the thirteen to the spectator on your right.

"And now at last and not a moment too soon, the trick we've all been waiting for, the amazing eleven bill trick."

False count the eleven bills as thirteen using a slip count on three and seven.

"Oh no! Thirteen. Now they're breeding. Did I give you two?"

"Well here's two more."

Give the spectator on your right another two bills.

"And now at last... ah, well, you know."

False count the nine bills as ten using one slip count on three or four.

"Oh no! Give me one more."

The spectator on your right gives you one bill. Turn to the spectator on your left.

"Here, you check them."

The spectator on your left counts the bills on to your left hand.

After five have been counted, hold a break above the fifth bill with your left thumb. The valley folds are nearest the spectator.

The spectator counts ten. Turn to the spectator on your right and fold the five bills in thirds holding them concealed between the left palm and the open five bills.

"Still ten, maybe I have a few more in my wallet."

Take the five unfolded bills between the thumb and forefinger of the right hand as your left hand enters your jacket. The five folded concealed bills are ditched into the pocket as the left hand removes the wallet. The wallet is opened on the palm of the left hand.

Turn to spectator on your right.

"How many do you have left?"

The spectator on your right counts five.

The right hand places the five bills from your right hand on to the open wallet. Naturally these are assumed to be ten. Take the bills from the spectator on your right and drop them on the five in the wallet.

"Ten and five make fifteen."

Address the spectator on your left.

"I won't touch them, take the fifteen, count eleven on the wallet, give him four and

let's start the trick."

The spectator and you count the ten on to your wallet. Pause to let this fact register with the audience. Look at the spectator, close the wallet and return it to your inside pocket.

"Ten. I'm sorry. but tonight I can't show you the damn trick."

Remove the two large (fake) £5.00 or \$5.00 bills from your inside pocket.

"But since you've been such great assistants I'll share the ten between you. So here's five for you and five for you!"

The two assistants are given the notes, thanked and dismissed.

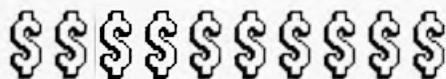
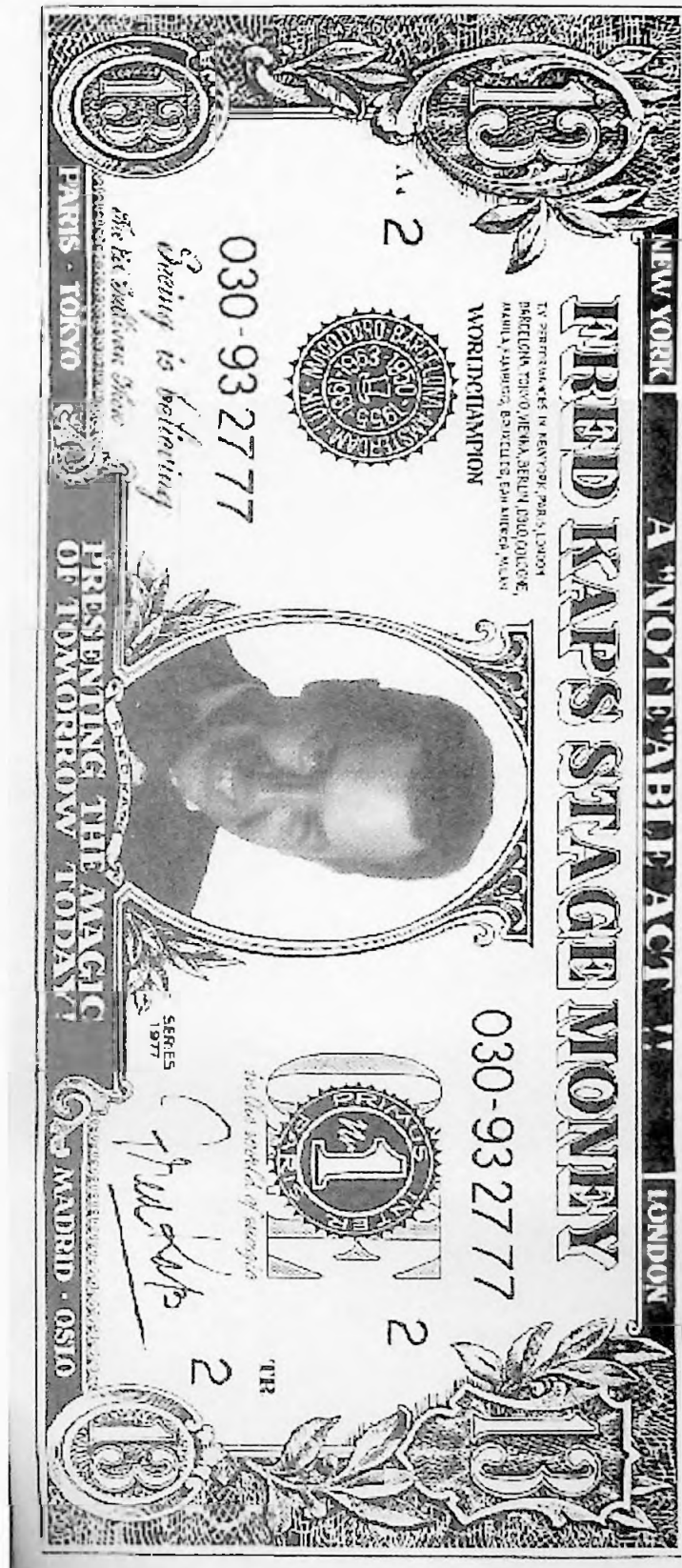


Illustration opposite shows Jumbo-sized "Fred Kaps Stage Money", reduced.



Grateful thanks for their assistance in this production to Trevor Lewis, Serena Abrahams, Barbara McNaughton and Jill Brahams.