

THE MAGIC SYMBOL

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March 2021

CLICK AROUND FOR BONUS CONTENT

March 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

May 2021						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

PREDICTING THE CALENDAR

Give a spectator an envelope and tell him or her that you've made a prediction and have placed it inside the envelope. Have him set aside the envelope. Using any calendar, ask the spectator to name a month - except February, which is a short month.

Give the spectator the calendar. Have him find the month and add up all the numbers in the "1" Column, including "1." Give the spectator paper and pencil, if needed.

Next, ask the spectator to open the envelope. Amazingly, the total matches the prediction. This trick relies on a little-known fact that the numbers always add up to 75, as long as you use the column starting with "1." The Calendar Trick can work with almost any month and almost any column, if you read further...

After eliminating February, ask the spectator to name a month (we'll use May, shown in the artwork.) Ask him what day of the week the month starts with (Saturday).

The first day of the month is always Column 1. You can ask him to add all the numbers under "Saturday." Because you know that Saturday is Column 1, the answer will be 75, as in the original version.

But you also can ask the spectator to add the numbers under almost any other day of the week by forcing him to pick another day. A force is a way to control a spectator's selection: a card, a number, a word, a letter - just about anything, but he shouldn't know he's being forced. You have to act casual and relaxed about "forcing" the spectator to do what you want.

In our May example, Saturday = Column 1, Sunday = Column 2, Tuesday = Column 4, Wednesday = Column 5, Thursday = Column 6, and Friday = Column 7. (More about leaving out Column 3 later.)

No matter what day of the week he "chooses," you know the total of the column:
Column 1 = 75 Column 2 = 80 Column 4 = 58 Column 5 = 62 Column 6 = 66 Column 7 = ?? (Can you figure this out?)

This works because the first day of the month is always Column 1. To use another example, if a month begins on Wednesday, Wednesday is Column 1, Thursday is Column 2, Saturday is Column 4, etc.

Let's say your spectator chooses a month that begins on Wednesday, and your "prediction" is 58 - Column 4, or Saturday. You will have to force the spectator to select Saturday (Column 4).

To force "Saturday," try to be creative. After the spectator tells you that the month begins on Wednesday, you can say something about Wednesday not being your best day (can you think of a reason why you might not like Wednesday or why you might like other days better?). In fact, Saturday might be your favorite day of the week. And then you can list why you like Saturdays: there's no school, you can sleep late, etc.

Ask the spectator, "How about adding all the numbers under Saturday and see what you get?"

Even though you force the day (Column), you don't force the month; you won't know what day of the week begins each month. You'll have to force the spectator to the total you've chosen. Try to prepare for this trick by listing why you might like or not like days of the week. Maybe you like Monday because it's the beginning of the week. You might like another day because you always get your favorite dinner. Your reasons don't have to be true, but they should fit you.

The additional version makes the Calendar Trick seem less like a math trick and more like a miracle. It adds more mystery to the original effect, and you may be able to repeat it for the same audience at a later date.

Don't use Column 3
Column 3 will not work in a month that has 31 days. Unlike February, which has too few numbers, Column 3 will have too many numbers in a month with 31 days. Other than February, it doesn't matter what month the spectator chooses: forcing the column is always under your control, and you will never force Column 3.

"It is the unspoken ethic of all magicians
to not reveal the secrets." - David Copperfield

SYM

HISTORY
of
MAGIC

Magic With a Message: St. John Bosco

In some religions, saints are people who, when they were alive, were holy and achieved great things. Saints that protect or support people, places, professions, or ideas are called patron saints. Magic has a patron saint: St. John Bosco. He was a Roman Catholic priest.

Giovanni Bosco was born August 16, 1815, in Turin Italy, to a poor family. He earned money by selling birds he hunted so he could buy tickets to traveling circuses, fairs, and carnivals. He learned to walk the tightrope, juggle, and perform magic. He put on shows for children and used magic to interest them in religious messages. His use of magic to promote religious ideas is considered the first modern use of Gospel magic. A trick still used to explain the Christian doctrine of the Trinity is changing three ropes into one using vanishing knots. He also changed pebbles into candy and performed your grandfather's favorite trick, pulling coins from ears.

He performed magic when he was training to become a priest, too. He made a plate of steaming pasta disappear from one house and reappear in another; he made red or white wine flow from the same bottle at will; he performed Cups and Balls, vanished coins, read minds, produced eggs from people's pockets; and he killed and chopped a rooster before bringing it back to life.

John Bosco was a pioneer in educating the poor. He dedicated his life and priesthood to the betterment and education of street children, juvenile delinquents, and other disadvantaged youth, and he developed teaching methods based on reason, religion, and kindness, rather than punishment. In 1859, he founded the Salesian Order of the Roman Catholic Church to help poor children.

John Bosco died on January 31, 1888. He was officially named a saint on April 1, 1934, and given the title, "Father & Teacher of Youth." He also is the patron saint of apprentices, editors and publishers, schoolchildren, and juvenile delinquents. His feast day is January 31.

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