

John M. Talbot's

PRESS THE FLESH!®

Routine and Handling for the Airship Magic Brass Coin Casket

Background:

I was thrilled when I learned that Airship Magic had produced a version of the Brass Coin Casket. Versions of this have been released in the past but have become very difficult to find. I had been looking for several years with no luck. Not only has Airship Magic introduced this classic to a new audience they also produced one of the most beautiful versions of it ever! Happy Days! 😊.

Word quickly spread about this and the Magic Café now has a thread in the Latest and Greatest section devoted to this neat prop that has grown to over 21 pages and over 400 posts! There is a wonderful assortment of ideas there and encourage you to take a read. In fact, I shared the germ of this routine on the Café. It received considerable positive feedback which led to Airship Magic sourcing the additional items needed and offering them on their site. This led to packaging all the items needed together to do my routine... and of course that led to me supplying Airship Magic with my full routine "**Press the Flesh**". I believe the full package has been labeled "**The John Talbot Coin Casket Ensemble**" ... sounds a bit like an underground alternative Jazz band ;).

Obviously if you are reading this you have purchased the "ensemble" or acquired the necessary props and these instructions. At the core is Airship Magic's Brass Coin Casket. The Casket has been precision machined to allow you to easily know if a Kennedy half dollar is either heads or tails while sealed within the casket. I am not sure what kind of voodoo magic Airship has used to make this happen... but it couldn't be easier or more deceptive. You will learn my simple handling below.

As a standalone item the Brass Coin Casket is a great close-up trick with many possibilities. I knew I wanted to try and elevate it to a bit more of a formal performance piece, using some framing that allowed for several phases, that appeared progressively more impossible to the spectator. Bottom line I wanted to create a routine this little jewel deserves. What follows is how I am performing the Coin Casket and getting a great response... it has become a favorite piece very quickly. In the routine below my script is in black and required actions in grey. I have also included a few photos at the end of the routine to help illustrate some of the simple actions needed. Without further ado let's get into "**Press the Flesh**".

The Routine Phase One:

"Have you ever heard the phrase **Press the Flesh**? Yes? It is a pretty common phrase now and generally refers to when a public figure, typically a politician works a room and continuously shakes hands... or **Presses the Flesh**. Obviously, they do it to appear friendly and engaged. However, many experienced politicians will tell you that this action will give them information, vibes if you will about how people are feeling about issues, the campaign or them personally. Call it intuition, body reading or may maybe even some form of psychic connection... I believe like so many public figures do that our hands communicate more than we think.

We know of course that palm reading has been around for years, but that's different. Palm reading relies on studying and interpreting lines in our hands. That's cool but not what I am interested in.



I have come to believe that our hands can convey information from objects that they have recently touched or have been pressed onto them. Sounds a bit far fetched I know but I have been having some success. I like to call myself an “Impressionist” ... and no that does not mean I enjoy painting portraits or country landscapes with a bold use of color ☺. No, I am referring to a new skill I am building... interpreting things from a simple impression in your hand. Want to give it a try...Yes? ... Great!

I have assembled a few tools to practice this new skill all contained in this cool little briefcase. (Open briefcase) Inside is another little case. (Spectator sees the plastic case with the casket inside). Inside the plastic case is an old brass pillbox (Open plastic case and remove the casket which I call a pill box). And finally, inside the pill box is an old silver half dollar. (Open the casket and remove the half dollar). Check out the coin... it is going to be what I refer to as the target. (Allow the spectator to examine the coin and for that matter any of the objects).

OK, let's see how good of an Impressionist I am! While my back is turned please place the coin into the pill box heads or tails up... only you know... and seal the cover back on the box. (Turn your back while the spectator completes these actions). All done? Great, I will now turn around. Please hold your hand out flat (Have the spectator extend a hand palm up). I can tell how these two lines intersect that you are a bit skeptical about all this (Point to two intersecting lines on their hand). I get it... but let me show you. Please place the pill box onto your hand (Spectator places the casket onto their out stretched palm).

Now please extend your forefinger and press down on the pill box. (wait a few beats). Excellent that should do it. Let me have a look... ahhh yes I detect a faint image of a tails side coin... that would tell be that you placed the coin heads up. Is that right? Yes? Fantastic! (OK, so here is what you need to do. Reach over and with your thumb and forefinger grip the sides of the casket. You should have a fairly firm grip of the box with the thumb and finger. Lift up and slightly tilt your hand to your left. Move your hand away from their hand a few inches. As the hand moves away tilt your hand to the right. During these actions if you feel the coin move it is tails side up. If the coin does not move it is heads side up. The actions should look very casual as you are just moving the casket out of the way so you can study their palm. DO NOT LOOK AT THE CASKET AS YOU MOVE IT, ALL YOUR ATTENTION IS ON THEIR PALM.

Study their palm for a few moments and announce what you see. If you have determined that the coin is Heads up, you will say you see the image of tails on their palm as that is what would be pushing on their palm (in theory ☺). If you determined their coin is Tails side up, then you would say you see a Heads image on their palm... but you figured that out I am sure ☺. Place the casket back on their hand and allow them to open it and confirm that you are in fact an Impressionist! I try to hold the box for as little as possible.... Lift... get the read... look at their palm and place back on their hand.)

Kind of cool, right? Let's try it again..."

The Routine Phase Two:

"You still look a little skeptical so this time I want you place the coin in the pill box either heads or tails and then seal it in the plastic box so I cannot touch it! (Turn your back while the spectator completes these actions) All good? Excellent, I will turn around. Again, please extend your hand and place the little box on your palm. Perfect... now take your forefinger and press down on the box. (Spectator again extends their hand palm up and places the plastic box with the casket in it on their palm. They again extend their forefinger and press down on the box against their palm). Ok, that should be enough, you can remove your finger. Interesting... once again I am sensing the image of a tails side coin on your palm which to me means that you placed the coin in the pill box heads side up... Correct? Yes?... amazing. (Like the actions above once they remove their forefinger you lift the plastic box using your thumb and forefinger. Tilt to the left as you lift and to the right as you move the box away from their hand. Again,



do not look at the box, all attention is on their palm. Once again if you feel the coin move it is tails side up and if no movement it is heads side up. The fact that the casket is held securely in the plastic box allows you to still detect if it is heads or tails... devious 😊 If you know the coin is heads you will say you see tails on their palm and if know it is tails you will say you see a heads side coin on their palm. You are sensing the image that is closest to their palm... you get the drill 😊

OK, I think you are beginning to realize you are in the presence of a true Impressionist, but in case you have any lingering doubts let's try one more time."

The Routine Phase Three:

"I haven't tried this before but you are a great subject and I think I want to give this a try... You game? Yes? Sweet! For a final time while my back is turned I will ask you to place the coin either heads or tails side up into the pill box. Then seal the pill box into the plastic box and then ...*pause*... seal everything back in the metal briefcase! Understood? Perfect! (Turn your back while the spectator completes these actions). How are you making out... everything secure? Yes?... Nice Job! I will turn around now. Ok, I think you know the drill, please extend you hand palm up. Place the briefcase on your hand. (For a final time, the spectator extends their hand palm up and places the briefcase on their palm). Please extend your forefinger and press down on the briefcase. Perfect, you can remove your finger. Believe it or not through brass, plastic and military grade aluminum I am sensing the image of a heads coin on your palm which means you sealed the coin in the pill box, then in the box and then in the briefcase in a tails side up position. Correct? Yes? Halleluiah!! (You again mimic the actions above. With your thumb and forefinger lift up the briefcase tilt your hand to the left. As you move your hand away tilt it to the right. Do not look at the briefcase, all attention is on the palm. Again, if you feel any movement of the coin you know it is tails side up and no movement it is heads side up. Yes, even sealed in the casket, in the box and in the briefcase, you can still feel the small movement of the coin.... Very cool! 😊)

Thanks for helping... next time you shake hands who knows what the person will learn about you!"

-End-

Final Thoughts:

This has quickly become a favorite routine and I have fooled several magicians with it as well. You will find that as soon as you bring out the little black briefcase that spectators will instantly become intrigued... it commands attention 😊. Take your time initially removing and displaying the props. These are your tools and by handling them carefully it will build up some anticipation as to what you are about to show them. I present this lightly and with some humor but the premise is just on the edge of believability with spectators which is why they are intrigued.

The routine is quite personal as you are at times holding their hand, looking at their palm etc. This helps make it very engaging for the spectator but as always treat your spectator with respect and they will have fun with the experience.

As I continue to perform this, little additions invariably creep in. Lately I have added one of my business cards in the pocket located inside the lid. On the back of the card I have written "The third time you will choose heads". If in fact on the third phase they choose heads I have them remove the card and read the prediction. Makes a nice kicker ending. If they don't choose heads on the third phase, then I skip it. Routine is strong enough without it, but is a bonus at least 50% of the time 😊. I don't always use this ending even if they pick heads as it is taking this more into a mentalism area where the overall premise I



am selling is that I have acquired a unique skill. However, if you have an enthusiastic spectator that is in to it, and the prediction hits I say use it.

I recently added another item I am enjoying if they chose tails on the final phase. SEO magic recently added an item on their site called a "Coin Light". Essentially this is a small keychain flashlight that projects the image of a Kennedy half (heads up).

https://www.seomagic-usa.com/product_info.php/products_id/2263

At the end of the routine as I am starting to put the props away I will say that I have recently found a tool that makes detecting the hand impressions much easier. I bring out the flashlight and call it a High Definition LED Image Enhancer. I will ask them to look at their palm and inquire if they can see the heads image that I saw. They will of course say no. Have the spectator hold their palm open and shine the light on their hand and they will see the image of a Kennedy half face up on their hand! Then I casually put the light in my pocket and say "I might market that someday"

Two little ideas to add a kicker ending if you like. I hope you enjoy the routine... the Casket a great prop and I know you will have a lot of fun with it. Thanks for reading!

John M. Talbot

Copyright © 2019 John M. Talbot and Airship Magic



John M. Talbot's

PRESS THE FLESH!®

- PHOTO GALLERY -



Black briefcase brought out to start the "Press the Flesh" routine.



Briefcase opened to display the inner case, the beautiful Brass Coin Casket is seen through the clear lid.



The briefcase, inner case, brass casket and coin on display at the start of the routine. The "tools" area ready...



John M. Talbot's

PRESS THE FLESH!®

- PHOTO GALLERY -



Spectator pressing on the casket with their forefinger in Phase 1 of the routine.



You lift the casket with your thumb and forefinger tilting the casket to the left as it is lifted.



As you move your hand away to see their palm you tilt the casket to the right. This action will allow you to detect if the half moves in the casket or not. Remember, place no attention on the casket all focus is on their palm. These actions only take a moment or two to execute.



John M. Talbot's

PRESS THE FLESH!®

- PHOTO GALLERY -



Spectator pressing on the box with their forefinger in Phase 2 of the routine.



You lift the box with your thumb and forefinger tilting the box to the left as it is lifted.



As you move your hand away to see their palm you tilt the box to the right.



John M. Talbot's

PRESS THE FLESH!®

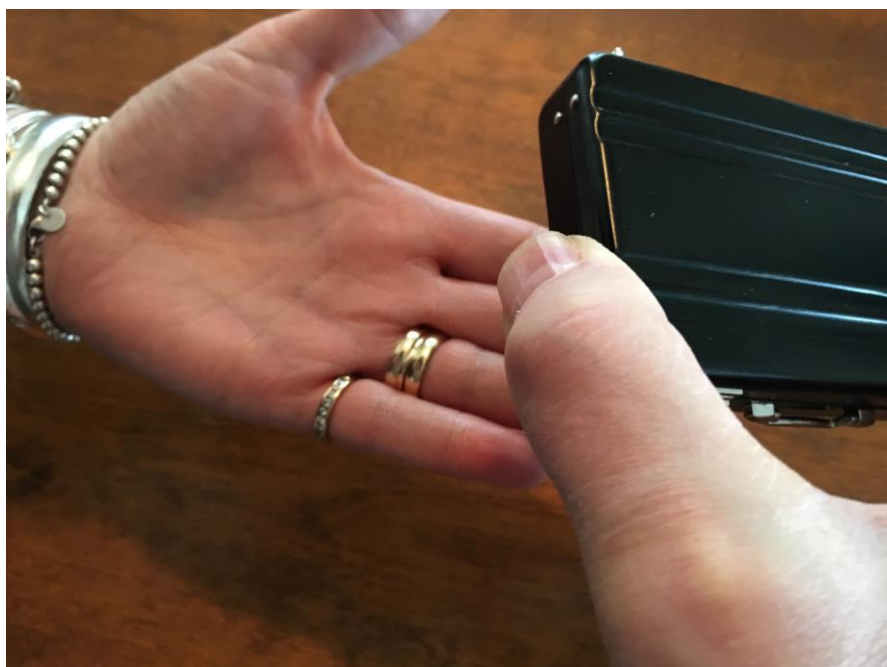
- PHOTO GALLERY -



Spectator pressing on the briefcase with their forefinger in Phase 2 of the routine.

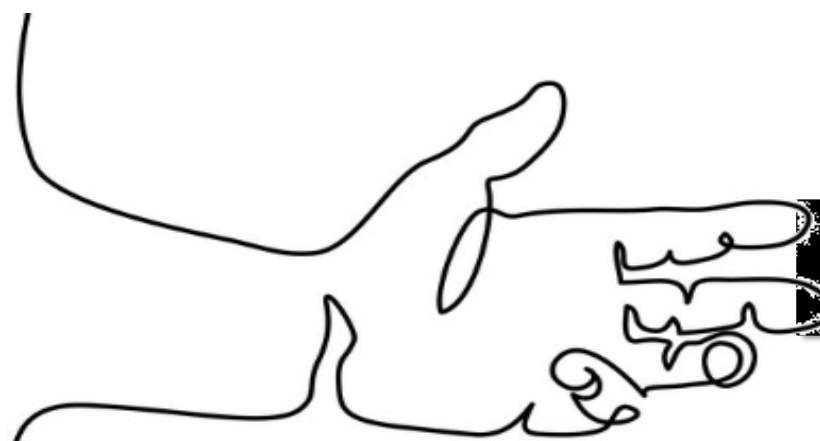


You lift the briefcase with your thumb and forefinger tilting the briefcase to the left as it is lifted.



As you move your hand away to see their palm you tilt the briefcase to the right. One of the strengths of this routine is that the actions are consistent throughout helping avoid extra potentially suspicious moves.





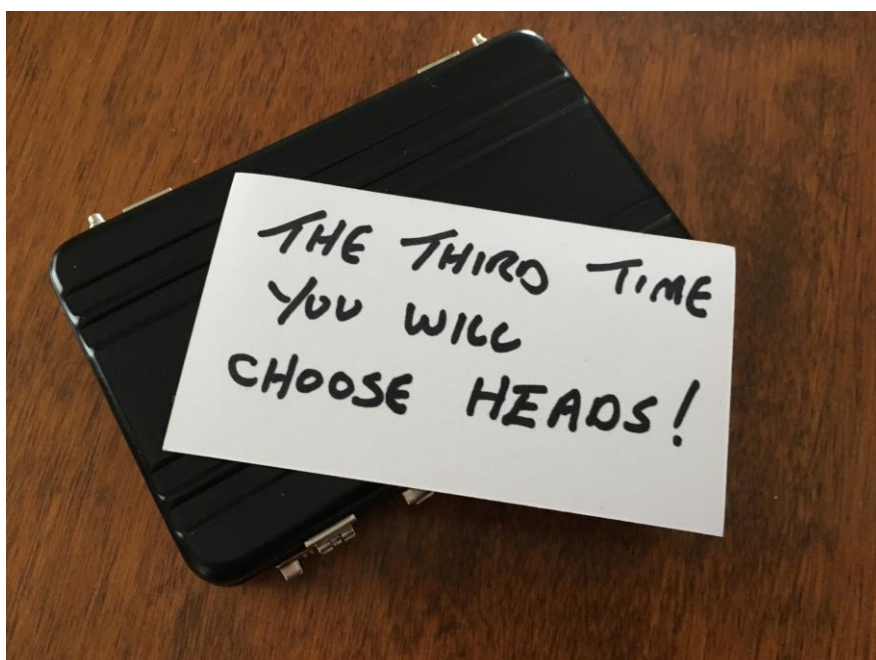
John M. Talbot's

PRESS THE FLESH!®

- PHOTO GALLERY -



The High Definition LED Image Enhancer in action 😊 (Difficult to get a clear shot of a light beam) See routine for details on this optional add on.



Optional business card prediction ending noted in the routine.

