

Ball and Tube Mystery

The Effect

The silver ball is placed on the brass tube. The ball mysteriously sinks into the tube out of sight, only to rise to the top of the brass tube again! It is immediately handed out for examination. To the spectator's dismay, the ball is too large to fit into the tube, and will only rest on the rim!

How it Works

The tube is actually a precision milled double tube. One end of the tube is shaved slightly, to better accommodate the ball resting on it. This will be called the top. With the ball on the table, pick up the tube and hold it with both hands and give it a twist. As you twist, the bottom of the inner tube will unscrew and drop into your hand. Note: The threads are reversed, so turn the bottom clockwise to open. Place the ball on top of the tube. With the inner tube unscrewed just enough to be still inside the outer tube, you will be able to push the inner tube upward to support the ball. At this time, move your fingers or thumb downward with the inner tube and the ball will mysteriously sink into the tube. Repeat in reverse to have the ball rise to the top. Once the ball has risen to the top, use your finger or thumb that is supporting the outer tube to twist the bottom of the inner tube counter-clockwise to close. Note: Make sure your thumb or finger is out of view so the audience does not see the twisting motion. Hand everything out for inspection. Note: If your outer tube is squeaky use a little wax on the outside of the inner tube to make it quieter.