

# Torn and Restored Cigarette Paper

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**Effect:** A Cigarette paper is shown and clearly torn into pieces. These pieces are then rolled into a ball. Upon unrolling the pieces, however, the paper is shown to be miraculously intact. The paper may be examined, and the hands can be shown to be unmistakably empty.

**Preparation:** Have a duplicate paper rolled into a ball and positioned in the same pocket as the booklet of cigarette papers.

**Method And Performance:** Reach into the pocket containing the booklet of papers and clip the duplicate paper between the right middle and index fingers as in Photo A. With just a bit of practice you'll find that the duplicate can be held securely in place while you remove one of the papers from the booklet.

As the left hand displays the paper removed from the booklet, the right hand replaces the booklet in the pocket. As the right hand moves back up, the right thumb moves behind the fingers and rolls the duplicate up so it is held between the pads of the right thumb and index finger. This allows you to display the paper openly. The hands appear unmistakably empty except for the one paper.

As both the left and right fingers move to the center of the paper for the first tear, the duplicate is once again rolled into the position shown in Photo A. The paper is now torn straight down the center. Pause just a moment to clearly show a piece in each hand.

Put the two pieces together and rotate them a quarter turn down then tear them in half again. Again pause just a second so your audience knows these tears are genuine.

Again put the pieces together and once again tear them in half. It should be apparent to even the most unobservant spectator that the paper is hopelessly destroyed.

Now begin to roll the pieces into a ball. It is during this process that the original paper is substituted for the duplicate by simply revolving one around the other behind the right fingers. The destroyed paper now goes into the grip shown in Photo A,



(Photo A)

while the duplicate is displayed at the left fingertips.

Begin to open the duplicate, but act as if you're having difficulty doing so. It is at this point that the right fingers move to the mouth to moisten the fingertips, ostensibly to aid in the opening process. However what actually happens is that the destroyed paper is deposited on the tongue and secreted in the mouth until such time as it can be disposed of.

Unroll the now apparently restored paper and allow it to be examined if anyone chooses to do so. Your hands are empty and you can easily move on to your next effect.

Afterthoughts: To my way of thinking this is a beautiful piece of close-up magic. Don't let the apparently simplistic method throw you; instead remember the effect you're creating in your spectator's mind. The ability to repair that which has been hopelessly destroyed touches a primal chord in the human mind and always makes for powerful magic. Practice this well and you will have a magical treasure to last you all your days.

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