

START

# How to...

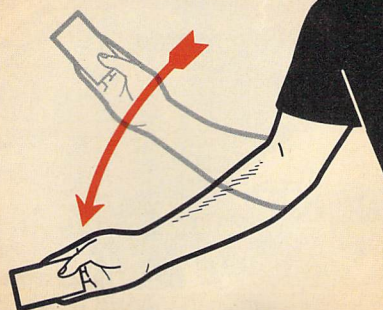
## MAKE YOUR BUSINESS CARD DISAPPEAR

The economy may do this for you, of course, but it's more impressive to do it yourself as a magic trick. Between gigs at casinos and on late-night TV, magician Chipper Lowell spilled the secret to one of the oldest sleights of hand. —TERRENCE RUSSELL



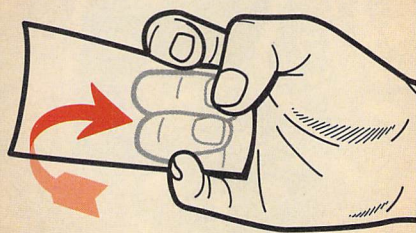
### STAGE THE CARD

Place the card over your fingers (parallel to your digits) and hold it in place with your thumb. Extend your lower arm out to the side.



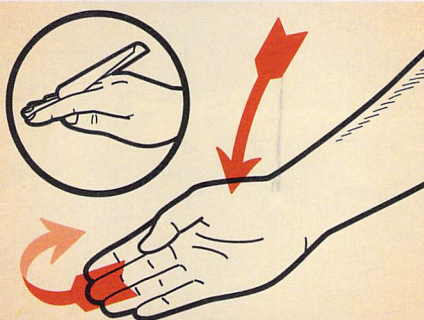
### DRUMROLL, PLEASE

Move your hand up and down three times in a karate-chop motion to build anticipation in your audience.



### LOCK AND LOAD

The next chop is fast. As you begin the downstroke, wrap your outer fingers over the edge of the card and curl your middle fingers behind it.



### STASH AND FLOURISH

As you reach the bottom, straighten all four fingers to flip the card behind. Practice over and over until it looks like, you know, magic.

## PUSH A COIN THROUGH A TABLE

Every wizard wants a sequined assistant and a crosscut saw. But all you really need to dazzle your drinking pals is the quarter in your pocket. —Chris Lesinski



### THE SET UP

Sitting across from your chumps, place the coin on the table.



### THE SWITCH

Covering the coin with your fingers, pretend to pick it up but let it fall into your other hand.



### THE PUSH

Slap your top hand onto the table while hitting the coin on the underside for sound effect.



### THE REVEAL

Pull the coin from under the table and display with an almighty "booya."

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## SOLVE A PUZZLE

may seem counterintuitive, puzzles are designed to be solved, not to stump you. Look for the entry point, like the first number you can nail down in the sudoku on page 14. **3. BUILD ON YOUR SUCCESS.** Puzzle solving is progressive. Take advantage of the information you provide yourself. For example, identifying and decoding one of 15 hidden clues in this issue will make finding the rest—and solving the overall mystery—a bit easier. —MARK L. GOTTLIEB

The magazine in your hand is teeming with puzzles. Feeling stuck? Dvora K. Klaviatura, head of the Belarus Enigmatology Institute ([www.typein.by.pyacbm.by](http://www.typein.by.pyacbm.by)), offers these tips. **1. LOOK FOR PATTERNS.** Puzzles are logical systems. They follow rules. Once you know the governing principles, watch for telling patterns or anomalies. **2. FIND THE WAY IN.** Though it