

BroomFlight

A simple method to float on a broom requiring only a broom and a towel.



"Have you ever seen a witch or wizard fly on a broom? If not, there's a good reason why. Most brooms can only fly at night. I could turn out the lights and demonstrate this for you - but you wouldn't be able to see anything. So instead, if I cover the broom with this towel, we can trick it into thinking it's night."

Step 1

The magician covers the broom with a towel.



Step 2

The magician straddles the broom.

Step 3

The magician kneels down and prepares for lift-off.



Step 4

The magician begins to float...



Step 5

His back foot comes to rest on his front leg. Both feet are off the ground!!!

Step 6

The magician shows off by flying with no hands!



The Secret



As the magician kneels down he takes off his right shoe. (Step 3)

The magician stands up on his right leg and places his right shoe over the back of his calf. (Step 5)

With the broom tightly held between his legs, the magician lets go with his left hand. (Step 6)



Airborne

Step 1

The magician stands on a chair holding a large cloth.



Step 2

The magician drapes the cloth in front of himself.



Step 3

The magician raises his right knee - he's now standing on one leg.



Step 4

The magician raises his other leg off the ground...and floats!

The Secret

After the magician raises his real right knee, he lifts a soup ladle into the position where his left knee would be if he lifted his left leg as well (and actually floated).



The key to this effect is practicing the timing and position of the ladle.

Floating o n t h e E d g e

This is an impromptu twist on my Pocket Levitator concept. The method described here can be performed with the audience directly in front of the magician and as far back as they wish. (This method will also work on the ground with the audience at close proximity)

The magician stands in the middle of a staircase with his audience directly in front of him.

He crosses his legs and places one foot on top of the other. He explains that the object is to try to step on himself to catch air.

He places his jacket (or large cloth) in front of his body. His feet stick out from underneath the jacket.



His feet begin to lift off of the stairs.

The magician appears to be floating in mid-air.

His feet return to the ground and the magician lowers the jacket.

The Secret

When the magician brings the jacket in front of his body, he takes his left foot out of his shoe.

The right foot balances the left shoe on top.



With his left foot, the magician steps backward on to the next step. He then raises his right foot and left shoe.

Mid-Air



The magician takes a seat on a stool. He crosses his legs and begins to concentrate. He begins to rise. He reaches below and removes the seat from underneath him.

The magician is now floating several feet off the ground. He returns the stool and floats back down to it. He steps off the stool.



The magician is actually seated on a board that runs through a slit in the back curtain. The board is balanced on a sawhorse with a backstage assistant providing the necessary lift and counterweight.

Required materials:

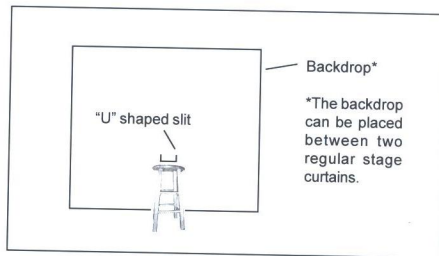
Stool
Sawhorse
Board (2"x6"x8")
Cushion
Curtain with slit (painting cloth)

[Total cost as demonstrated: \$16]



The cushion (made from foam and painted black) is nailed and/or glued to the board.

The board is painted flat black (not shown).



Curtain

"U" shaped slit

Backdrop*

*The backdrop can be placed between two regular stage curtains.

Magician

The greater the distance the assistant is from the fulcrum (the sawhorse), the less weight required to lift the magician.

Assistant

Sawhorse

Suspension of Disbelief



This is a slight re-working of a classic levitation stunt. The materials have been simplified so the effect can be created in a matter of minutes.

Step 1

The assistant lays down on a board resting on two chairs.



Step 2

The magician covers the assistant and the chairs.



Step 3

The magician steps away and gestures magically.



Step 4

The assistant begins to float upwards.



Step 5

The assistant reaches a height of five feet before lowering back down to the board.



The Secret



Hidden under the cloth is a broomstick with a pair of shoes affixed to the end via duct tape.

When the magician lifts the cover into place (step 2), the assistant reaches down and picks up the gimmick.



The assistant holds the gimmick to his chest.

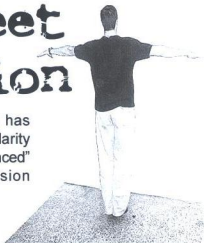
To levitate, the assistant stands up and holds the gimmick parallel to the floor.



After levitating, the assistant lowers the gimmick and their body back to the board. They then set the gimmick on the floor.

The Street Levitation

This is an old clown stunt that has enjoyed quite a bit of recent popularity - thanks to a cough, cough, "enhanced" performance of it on a television special.



Step 1

The magician turns his back to a spectator (only one or two are allowed to watch).



Step 2

He kneels down then stands up. As he stands, he raises his arms straight out.



Step 3

The magician's feet lift several inches off the ground.



The Secret

There are several factors that come into play to make this effect work:

1. The spectators are placed approximately 6 feet in back and 3 feet to the right of the magician.
2. After the magician kneels down, he looks up (directing the spectators' attention upwards)
3. He lifts his arms straight out (reinforcing the suggestion for the spectators to look up).
4. The magician lifts up his left heel and his entire right foot. (Because of the positioning of the spectators they can't see his left toe) This creates the illusion that his feet have left the ground.



5. The magician holds the position for just a few moments.
6. The magician then drops down almost to his knees. (This suggests that the magician is recovering from falling from a high distance).
7. The magician turns to his audience and asks how high he floated. He holds his hand several feet off the ground exaggerating the perceived distance (reinforcing the idea that he floated much high

Like any other effect, this one benefits from practice and experience. Find a pair of shoes that work well and a friend that will help you find out what you need to do to perfect the effect.

