

Metal Fork Bending

TRICK EFFECT & ROUTINE: The performer produces a metal fork and displays it. He then taps it on the table to prove it is solid. He then begins to rub the fork on its stem. Suddenly one of the tines begins to bend downward, and outward right in front of the spectators eyes. The fork is then handed out for inspection, and a spectator is asked to bend the tine back to its original position. The spectator has a much harder time bending it than the performer did, and the performer didn't even touch it!

PREPARATION: You will need to pre-bend one of the outside tines of the fork. Not too much though. Just bend it enough so that when you look at it from the side it is bent forward pretty good. This is one you will need to practice in front of a mirror.

METHOD: This can be done with any fork, anytime, anywhere. It is impromptu because it should only take a second to bend the tine forward. When you hold the fork so that it faces your audience, they will not be able to tell that one tine is already bent. And since they don't know what's going to happen, they won't be looking for it. Practicing in front of a mirror will give you a good idea of how to hold the fork. I usually bend the tine on the far right of the fork, so when it faces the audience, they will see it as the left tine. Produce your gimmicked fork, and give no indication of what you are about to do. Tap it on the table a couple of times careful not to turn it sideways. Hold it upright with the front facing the audience as I stated before. Hold the fork by the bottom between your right fingertips. Place your left thumb and index finger around the skinny part of the stem just below the head, and begin rubbing gently. As you begin doing this explain that sometimes if you rub metal the right way, it will heat up and strange things are bound to occur. As you are finishing this little statement begin slowly twisting the fork to the right with your right hand. As you do, from your audiences point of view it will appear that one tine is bending, apparently of its own will. Once the fork is twisted almost to one side, stop and hand out the fork for immediate inspection. Have someone bend the tine back to its place and make a note of how hard it is to bend. Remind everyone that at no time did you touch that part of the fork! Don't be surprised if some eyeballs pop out onto the floor, for this is a visual miracle. You may even have to remind some people to breathe! Just remember that it does not matter which tine you bend as long as it is one of the end tines. If you bend the left tine you will obviously have to twist the fork in the other direction.

COMMENTS: I still practice this one in the mirror, just because it looks so amazing! It is purely an optical illusion, which is what I think makes it so great. Just remember to give no hint of what is going to happen. As I said before, if they don't know what's going to happen, they will not even notice the tine, and will be that much more surprised when the effect takes place. This effect can be done with any fork, soft or hard.