

LARGE HIMBER WALLET

By Jerry O'Connell and PropDog



Around 1956 to 1957, Richard Himber used a leather wallet to do an effect, which he called, Bill-Fooled using a play on the American word Billfold. The basic construction of this type of wallet has not changed over the years and has become known as a “Himber’s”. These wallets look like ordinary wallets in all aspects, except they have two separate identical interiors, with two narrow straps that keep one of the interiors closed while the other one is open. These straps are the hinges for this wallet, the Himber must not be over filled or it will damage the Himber. An item placed in one interior will vanish when the wallet is turned over and the second interior is opened and shown.

These wallets will only work properly if they are made correctly and aligned correctly. There are unfortunately many inferior wallets on the magic market today. My wallets are the best in terms of quality and design they have no cardboard stiffeners only lining and leather which makes them the thinnest available in the magic world today.

Introduction

The top pocket goes through to the other interior. It’s also deep enough to hide a poker size card on one side only. Anything placed in here will show reversed in the other interior, after the turn over switch. The corner pockets are deliberately cut in the centre to allow paper items to display flatter when held in only one of the corners this also helps left hand users.

I repeat myself again. Do not over fill these wallets, it will effect their alignment. You will notice that all the hinges are material, not leather, making it so very easy to open and close. Use my Turn Over Change, it’s a very natural easy move.

Look for a mark on one side of the leather that stands out so that you can identify which side is which. I suggest The Mini Himber is kept in the jacket’s top hanky pocket and the Large in the inside Jacket pocket. Get used to handling the Himber’s always know which way they are placed back and how you remove them. Once you’ve decided the handling don’t change it it will become a very natural move to take them out and place them back ready for the next performance.

Many routines for these wallets have already been published. Ken Brookes, Travelling Money is the perfect trick for the Large Himber.

These Himber's look like ordinary wallets in all aspects, except they have two separate identical interiors, with two straps that keep one of the interiors closed while the other is open. An item placed in one interior will vanish when the Himber is turned over.

There are unfortunately many inferior Himber's on the magic market today. My Himber's are the best in terms of quality and design they have no cardboard stiffeners only cotton material and leather which makes them the thinnest available in the magic world today.

I make the Large Himber the Mini Himber and the Mini Peek-It Himber.

The one hand O'Connell Turn Over.

This is a very natural and easy move. Hold the Himber on the open stretched out fingers in the left hand, the thumb reaches over and lifts the top open into an open display. The simple move is to close the Himber by bending the fingers to close it, then allow it to slide back onto the fingers again, allowing you to reach other with the thumb again and open it, and you have executed a turn-over.

This one handed handling is so easy to perform, I believe this is the most natural way to open a Himber. When you master this move it looks and feels as though you haven't even made a turnover, you will fool yourself. If you require some help, give me a ring, I'll be happy to help you with anything you may not have understood from these instructions.

Travelling Money Routine

For this routine you will need the following or use other paper things if you feel it would work OK.

- 5 Blank cheques, each from a different bank
- 8 USA 1 dollar bills stick 5 of these behind the cheques
- 5 mixed UK paper money notes. Stick behind, five large foreign notes
- 10 different sizes of paper currency from different countries
- 1 x Large O'Connell Himber

The effect

Remove a loose batch of cheques from your Himber wallet. Show they are from various banks. Ask if someone would cash one of the cheques, as there are no takers, place them back into the wallet and close it. When you open it again, the cheques have changed into US dollar bills. Return the dollar bills back to the wallet and close it, when opened again they have turned into UK money, return these back to the Himber wallet and when opened again they have changed into an assortment of notes from many different foreign countries.

The above routine is easy to perform. The four changes are quite stunning. The Himber wallet does all the work.

Making the Gimmicks

I call them gimmicks, but they are just, Dollar Bills stuck to Cheques, trim the bottoms off the cheques so that when they're turned over they look like a normal dollar bills. The same with UK money, this is stuck to the other paper money from different foreign countries. You can buy batches of cheap mixed foreign bank notes, these batches are usually mixed sizes and some will fit the backs of UK money with limited trimming. Stick them back to back like the other set. These sets of back to back gimmicks must look like a batch of cheques, when turned over again they must look like a batch of dollars. The same with the other set of UK money with foreign money notes stuck to them.

Fitting the sets into the Large Himber

Fit both sets into the two triangular corner pieces, on each side of the Himber. These corners will hold each set firmly until they are required.

Let's call the different sides 1 and 2, so that, side 1(one) will be showing the cheques, with the dollars hidden behind them. Side 2(two) will show UK money with the foreign money hidden behind them.

The First turn over

That's exactly what you are going to do, turn the stack over. This is executed by laying the batch onto the opposite open side, then close this side, this action turns the batch over, when you open it again you see the other side of the batch. After you show this batch replace the batch back into the corners. Now you perform the Gesture Change (as described) which becomes the **Second turn over**. You then perform the third and fourth changes.

After the final change, the batches will need to be reset for the next performance.

Performance

Open side 1, and remove and show the cheques, asking if someone would cash one for you. Point out that the numbers are missing from the cheques, but it should get through, you hope. But say to your audience "I take it you don't trust me" execute a turnover change to show the dollar bills, but you are in England and dollars won't do. Put the dollars away into the two corners and execute the Turn Over Change then show the UK notes, suggest that this is the only type of money you need when travelling as you can get whichever money you require, it's like when you travelled to Turkey, open the wallet and find a Turkish note as you sort around in the batch of foreign money to find a Turkish note. This brings you to the end of the performance.

Thoughts

Add five or more loose dollar bills to your batch, these will make the display look much better when you show the money.

Add a lot more foreign notes to make the final display really spectacular as you sort out the note you require.

The original routine was, I believe, Ken Brooke's Travelling Money.

I start by using blank cheques, I use a, Nat West Bank, Clydesdale Bank, Coutts & Co Bank, Barclays Bank, Banque Populaire, and Yorkshire Bank. It's easy to handle the extra loose notes which you control and keep hidden under each batch as you are showing the top notes (gimmicks) before using any of the turn over changes. As I've already said, Resetting is necessary and very simple, just turn over each batch in the triangular corners, and it is reset for the next performance.

Enjoy **Jerry O'Connell**