

THE MENTALIST PAD

By Jerry O'Connell and PropDog



The O'Connell Mentalist Pad

The quality and the design of the Mentalist pad will allow it to be freely handled and written on by your helpers.

The clever construction adds to the look of being just a normal note pad, because the working parts are completely hidden out of sight. The two top sheets disappear when the cord, which is attached to the pencil, is pulled. The operation is smooth and easy to use, resetting is very easy too remember to remove the pencil from the holder first.

The Effect

Three or more people in your audience write a number on the Mentalist Pad (specify how many digits)

Another person is asked to add up the numbers and call out the total.

The total will be the same as your prediction, present as you wish.

Working Parts

Open the Mentalist to reveal the note pad. The top of the pad is held there by a leather pocket and a flap which tucks down behind the pad. This flap can be lifted out by inserting the little finger behind it and easing the flap up and out, this allows you to remove the complete pad by pushing the pad upwards until the lower end comes free of the lower corner pockets when free pull down to remove the pad, you will find the pencil holder prevents the pad moving too far up.

Preparation

Write three or four digit numbers or whatever combination you intend to use, on the actual note pad, (under the two gimmick sheets) making the writing slightly different for each set of digits. Add them up and keep that total on a separate piece of paper and keep it safe.

The Pad

This cardboard unit holds the writing paper, the pencil holder and the elastic strap which holds down and hides the two loose ends of the paper gimmick, it allows just enough clearance to completely remove the pad from the lower corner pockets. Now that the pad is out you can add 12 new pieces of paper with one staple as before.

The Cord

The cord is attached to the brass bar which sits in the fold of the paper gimmick. The cord passes behind the note pad and through a hole at the back.

When the cord is pulled the paper gimmick is hidden behind the pad, revealing the pad sheet beneath. Nothing can be seen to give away anything after the cord is pulled. The new sheet will have your own numbers on it to be added up by another helper.

Fitting the Gimmick sheet

With the bar sitting in the gimmick, pull the cord so that the gimmick moves down into the side wings of the leather behind the pad.

Feed the other end of the gimmick sheet through the top pocket under the flap onto the face of the pad and secure it under the elastic strap. Pull slightly to take up an slack cord, tuck in the flap to make it ready for use.

Very important

Start with the inserted pencil pointing upwards, visually informing you that it is ready and set up for use. After the cord has been pulled, the pencil is replaced pointing downwards; visually informing you it needs resetting. It also visually shortens the slack cord, making it look the same as when you started. Remove the pencil to reset.

Important

Do not hold the actual pad as this may restrict the flow of paper within the Mentalist. Holding the flap, not the paper unit allows a smoother unhindered action.

Paper Sizes

The pad and gimmick sheets use standard lined paper.

The gimmick sheet (long sheet) = 270 mm x 68mm folded in half.

The gimmick sheet (Short sheet) = 160 mm x 68mm fold at 135 mm.

The pad sheet = 135 mm x 68mm. 12 sheet secured with one staple.

You can use some of the coloured, 80 g/m² copy papers.

You will notice there are two different sizes of gimmick sheets which can be used, one is a simple, folded in half single sheet, the other is a shorter double sheet, the short end is Sellotaped down where the bar sits, use the size you feel more comfortable with.

It is worth spending a few moments, dismantling and reassembling the Mentalist Pad to familiarise yourself with all the workings.

Enjoy *Jerry O'Connell*

With An Object in Hand a Routine by Henry Lewis MIMC

The Effect and Presentation

The performer exhibits a small plain casket fitted with a hasp and staple. He states that a personal article of intrinsic value, placed in the casket by a member of the audience will assist him to predict a future action of the spectator assisting.

He then holds the open casket high enough so that the spectator cannot see inside; into this the spectator places his personal possession.

The casket is closed and the spectator is given a small combination padlock. He is requested to secure the casket, and to spin the combination lock. A playing card is then selected and shown to the audience. After the performer has made a 'recap' of what has transpired the spectator is instructed to open the casket.

He or she cannot do this, as they did not make a note of the combination number when they closed the lock! After a show of horror etc, the performer hands a notepad to a member of the audience, requesting that he initial the bottom sheet. This is then handed to three other members of the audience to write in above the signature a three-figure number each.

The pad is then handed back to the signatory to confirm his signature and add the total and by some good fortune this number opens the casket! The spectator removes the object he/she placed therein and discovers a sealed envelope, this he or she opens and the card chosen is predicted therein!

Required

The ability to force a card, or alternatively use a R&S deck. The beautifully designed and crafted "Mentalist" by Jerry O'Connell.

A small wood casket approx. 6" x 4" x 4" decorated in a style to suit the act, fitted with a hasp and staple and a simple combination padlock which can be obtained at most Woolworth's or similar stores.

Also needed is a sealed envelope with the prediction of the card to be forced, which is placed in the casket before the performance.

Workings

The workings are obvious, be sure you know the number of the padlock! I suggest you set this when purchasing the lock, use the first three or four numbers of your telephone number, then you will always be sure of your "added" total.

With this mental effect use the audience participation, either as a serious or a very humorous effect depending on the performer and the programme. Try it!

I like your idea Henry of using the telephone numbers so we don't forget, good one Henry.

Thank you Henry
Enjoy *Jerry O'Connell*