

The Juggler's Manual of Cigar Box Manipulation & Balance

By

Reginald W. Bacon

(Newburyport, Mass.: Variety Arts Press, 1983)

This book helped start a new wave of juggling instructional material when it was published in 1983. The content leads the aspiring box juggler from the most basic of three-box moves, through advanced variations, and on to multiple-box stunts, precision balances, and showmanship. "All you need to know to learn and perform with cigar boxes." – *Juggler's World Magazine*.

FEATURED SKILL WORKSHOP

Manipulative Miscellanea:

The Classic Skills with Top Hats, Canes, Plates, Nesting Cups, & Assorted Objects

INQUIRIES
WELCOME

Summary: This demonstration/workshop amplifies on material covered in the book of the same name. In addition to the juggling and manipulative specialties listed above, topics include mixed-object juggling; tricks with trays, teacups, & spoons; combination spinning/balancing/juggling; and a collection of stunts from the early days of vaudeville, music hall, and circus. This workshop is appropriate for current or aspiring variety artists who are already conversant in basic toss-juggling and its terminology.

Presenter: Reg Bacon, touring professional juggler and variety entertainer for 35 years; vaudeville historian & museum presenter; author of the books *Manipulative Miscellanea* and *Cigar Box Manipulation & Balance*.

I. Rationale. The broad appeal of working with familiar everyday objects enables a performer to forge a strong connection with the general audience. A contrasting departure from toss juggling can also create a theatrical change of pace. Perhaps most valuable to a performer, the relatively "fail-safe" manipulative routine with just one or two objects allows an unhurried showcase of the performer's stage personality and character, enhancing the performer/audience connection.

II. Hat & Cane Manipulation. The gamut of hat & cane moves, both elegant and snappy – twists, rolls, spins, flips, grip-changes, and more; cane rolls, combination hat & cane tricks, tosses, & balances.

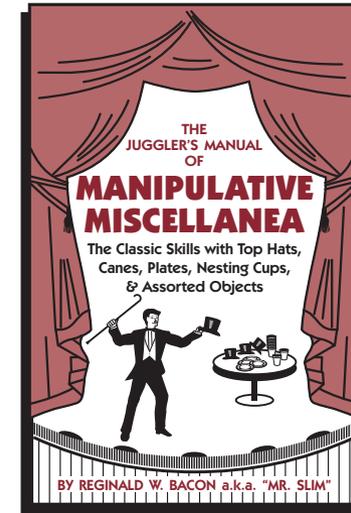
III. Plate Manipulation & Juggling. Turnovers, twistovers, rolls, & slides; progression from one plate manipulation to three-plate juggling.

IV. Nesting Cups. An introduction to the possibilities and progressions of moves, tosses, and catches with up to six shaker cups – or flower pots!

V. Trays, Teacups, & Spoons. Tray & teacup tricks; multiple cups & spoons: "All zee spoons in all zee glasses."

VI. Mixed-Object Juggling. Props, themes, applied physics; a sampling and sharing of mixed-object ideas.

VII. Speciality Balancing, Spinning, & Combination Stunts. Ball-spinning & plate-spinning combinations; stunts suitable for unicycle, rola-bola, & rolling globe; juggling/balancing combinations.



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The only book of its kind detailing the author's arcane acrobatic juggling and manipulative specialties, it has become a "best seller" – among specialized juggling books at least – since its publication in 1984, and the basis for the content of many juggling convention workshops from the 1970s through the 1990s. "A good lesson in entertainment." – *Juggler's World*

Books may be purchased from the premier juggling prop dealers, or directly from Variety Arts Press. Cost of eachbook: \$12 plus \$4 shipping.

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