

MYSTICAL MOBIUS

With the use of a long strip of calculator paper, you demonstrate a very strange version of reality.



Figure 1

another strip of paper, cut down the middle... but now the loops are linked! (Figure 2)

The third time, you cut down the middle and end up with one large loop!

How does this happen?

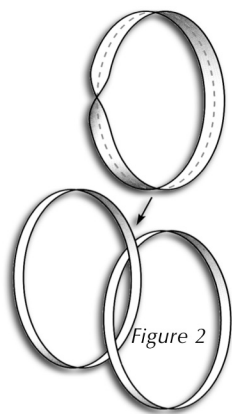


Figure 2

As seen in figures 1, 2 and 3, the number of twists in the loop makes all the difference.

The first loop has no twists when you tape the ends together. It helps the effect of the trick a lot to do this regular loop first. The audience can see and confirm that cutting down the middle results in

2 loops.

However, the second loop is twisted before taping the ends, but the audience must not be aware of it.

This is easy to accomplish, because the length of the paper strip hides any twists. When preparing for this trick, have the strips of paper laid on the table with the twists in place ahead of time. This makes it easier to proceed.

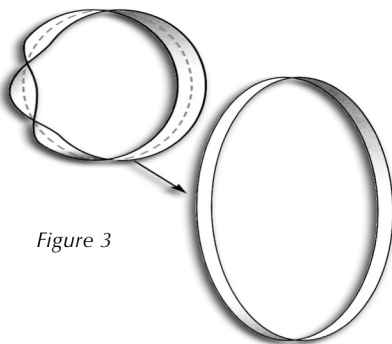


Figure 3

If you want to make the twists while taping the ends, you'll need to practice the move until it is done very smoothly. Telling a story of some sort will help keep attention away from the paper while you are making the twists.

The third strip of paper has two twists, as seen in figure 3. Again, cut down the middle.

It helps to have a line drawn end to end on the paper strips before starting. This can be done easily by laying the strip of paper on a table, putting a book at each end to hold it in place, then carefully drawing the line with a pencil and a yardstick.

Use safety scissors, and have an adult help. Or you could just tear the paper. Some papers will tear in a straight line, as well as certain cloths. You could make the loops from old newspapers, they are usually able to tear straight.

THINK ABOUT THIS...



Imagine that little ant is walking along the mobius strip of paper. He will walk on both sides of the paper and never cross over the edge of it!