

TUNING UP CARDIOGRAPHIC

My effect “Cardiographic” is manufactured exclusively by Hocus Pocus Magic of Fresno. This is the pad I use and recommend, but before I use it, I like to do a little tuning up.

To begin this process, you must first disassemble the pad by removing the spiral binding. Then remove the Tyvek envelope from the sheet to which it is attached. Be very careful doing this, because the tape may pull up some of the envelope fibers. Occasionally the sliding card will be stuck in the envelope, push a ruler inside to loosen, and remove it.

Replacing the thread

I have changed to using a nylon line instead of the kevlar supplied with the pad, I recommend an 8lb test “limp” fishing line. First cut away the old thread and replace it with the nylon. The distance between the magnet and the sliding card should be 19 inches. The nylon passes over the top of the pad at the center and not through one of the holes. Oh, and while you have the sliding card in hand, use a black magic marker to blacken the very edges, if need be.

Modifying the envelope

Wrap 2 inch wide “Scotch” brand mailing tape around three sides of the envelope to reinforce it. Now trim the envelope to length. When the sliding card is all the way inside about 1/8 to 3/16ths of an inch of it should protrude from the top.

Assembly

Sometimes the unit arrives with a badly made slit in the rising page, throw it away and make a new one. Cut the slit in the rising page and pencil in the card as described in the instructions, to make a light impression I use a #5 HB pencil from an art supply.

Lay the envelope, with the sliding card inside, on the back of the sheet. Align the top of the envelope with the slit, pushing the protruding part of the sliding card through it. Fix it in place with two 4 inch long strips of 3/4 inch Scotch “Magic” tape on either side. I like to fold over about a quarter inch at the top to make a little tab. This makes the tape easy to remove. Since the tape goes on top of the Mailing tape on the envelope it peels away easily.

The pad comes with some extra blank sheets to add some bulk to it. I prefer not to use these and discard them. It makes the handling a little easier. From bottom to top is the back, the giveaway sheet, the duplicate unprinted cover, the rising sheet, and the actual cover.

The nylon should hang over the top edge of the pad at the exact center point, to assist in placing it correctly, I make a pencil dot on the top center of the cover. Screw on the spiral and give it a test.

If you find the card tilts to one side during rising, making the envelope a little narrower will correct this.



Hocus Pocus Magic does a fine job of manufacturing this effect but occasionally an error will occur. If your unit is defective, (page colors don't match or misprinting etc.,) please contact; Hocus Pocus Magic, 2311 East McKinley, Fresno, CA 3703, 1-800-407-4040.

There you are, tuned and ready for the show. Thanks for buying my effect and I hope you have many rewarding performances with it.

Martin Lewis