INVISIBLE GLUE

Adapted from "Magic and Showmanship for Teachers by Alan J. McCormack
http://www.store.yahoo.com/showboard/maandshforte.html

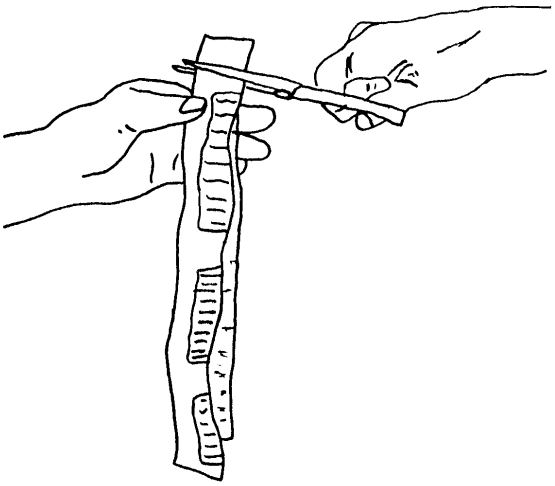
This set of three illusions is designed to help stimulate student creativity by having them make drawings and explanations of how it might work..

The teacher enters the room enthusiastically stating that "last night while working with Professor Von Science STUUF, you invented a new kind of glue. It works like regular glue except for the fact that it is totally invisible to the eye". Bring out a bottle that is labeled "invisible glue". The bottle is completely empty (because the glue is invisible).

You ask a student to come up and be your assistant as you demonstrate the properties of this new invention. You ask the student to hold out their hand and appear to pour some of the "invisible glue" into their palm. Ask the student if they can see the "invisible glue" in their hand? You caution the student to not close their hand because the "invisible glue" is "activated by darkness!"

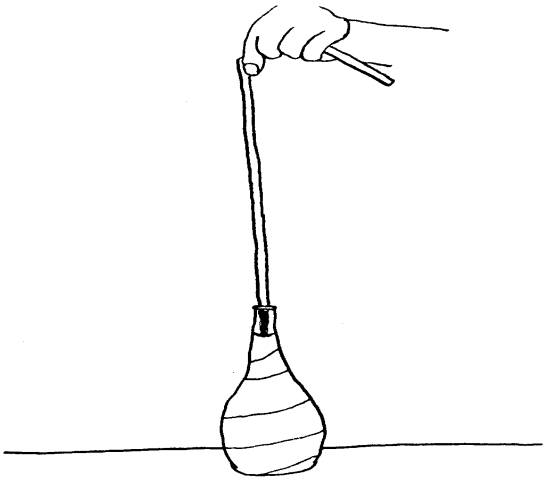
"Now, let's display the power of the glue in a few different ways. First of all here is a strip of paper I cut from this morning's newspaper. Notice that, like all strips of paper, it has two ends and a middle." You the teacher dramatically point out the structure of the long strip of paper. "Now we will cause a physical change in the paper by cutting away the middle." You the teacher fold the paper in half (top to bottom) and cut away the middle as shown:

Now pretend to dip the ends in the invisible glue and "enclose the cut ends within the darkness of your hand for an instant" and magically the ends have been rejoined by the invisible glue. You open the strip and it has been restored as the two pieces are as one.



Here is another way to demonstrate the invisible glue. You display 2 pieces of string. You dip the ends of the string into the invisible glue and then put the ends into your hand to activate the glue. Get two students to each take an exposed end of the string and try to pull in opposite directions so as to pull the ends from your closed hand. They are unsuccessful because when your hand is opened the "glued" ends have fused the string into one long piece of string.

Here is the third way to demonstrate the invisible glue. You display a 20-inch piece of clothesline and opaque vase shaped bottle. You demonstrate that there is no way that the rope should stick in the bottle as you put one end into the bottle. You then pretend to slather the glue on to the end of the rope and stick it back into the bottle. You demonstrate that if you hold the rope inside the darkened interior of the bottle the glue will set up. You turn the bottle upside down and the rope stays inside the bottle. You then turn the bottle right side up demonstrating that the glue will hold the bottle on to the rope as well.



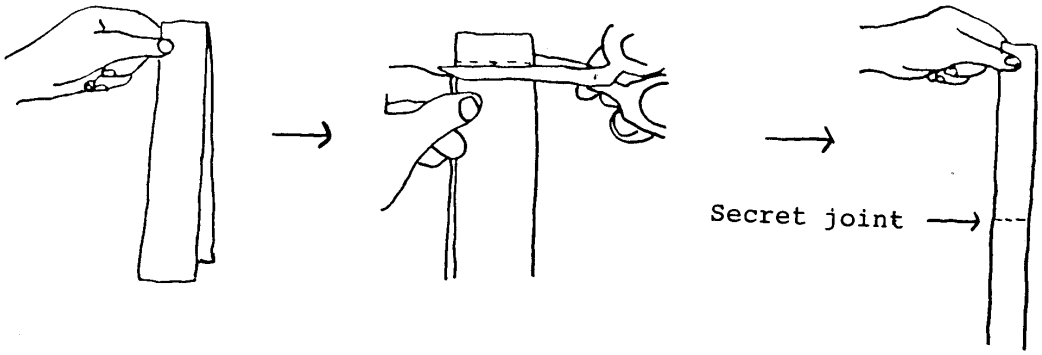
You then say that the "glue is not all powerful" as you take the rope out of the bottle.

You then ask the students "how many of you believe in the invisible glue?" Most of the kids will say that it is a trick. You then ask them to draw how the rope holding the bottle might be accomplished. They will come up with all kinds of great ideas for how it might work. What a great way to get them to think creatively.

This is how the three tricks are accomplished:

Cut and Restored Paper Strip

1. Label and empty container "invisible glue."
2. Cut a 1.5" wide strip from the long edge of a newspaper page (classified ads work great). On one side, thickly coat 8 inches of the middle of one side of the paper strip with rubber cement. Allow the strip to dry for about 30 minutes and recoat two more times
3. When the strip is dry, dust the entire coated side of the newspaper strip with talcum powder. The rubber cement will now be invisible and will not be sticky.
4. To perform – hold the strip in front of the students and fold it in half with the rubber cement inside. Snip off about ½ inch of the folded end. Use sharp scissors and cut straight through. This action exposes the sticky edges of the rubber cement that will cause the strips to stick together.



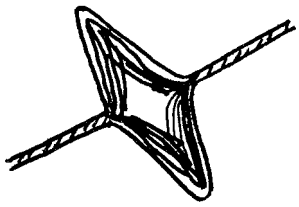
5. When you are ready, drop one end of the strip. the newspaper will appear to be restored. This trick can not only be found in Alan McCormack's book but also in other magic books under the trick name "Clippo".

FUSED PIECES OF STRING (see Balanced Forces)

The second effect uses string to demonstrate how you "the super-strong teacher of Science" can keep two students from pulling two separate pieces of string from your closed hand. In fact you can demonstrate it holding the two ends of two different pieces of string between your thumb and index finger.

To do the trick:

Split string – 24 ply cotton string is needed for the effect. (I use kitchen string) Prior to the performance, the string is split in the center by pulling the strands apart in the opposite direction, about half of the strands in each hand as shown below.



After the strands have been pulled out about two inches, they are re-twisted into separate "ends." The string should now look like the picture below.

The fingers cover the point where the strands are joined back together. The string is held in your right hand and displayed as two separate pieces. Two students are invited to come up and hold the two outside (long) ends. The performer (you) places the two fake ends into his/her hand. The helpers are instructed to pull with a steady force on their respective ends as you apply a force that will perfectly balance their efforts thus keeping your "ends" in your hand.

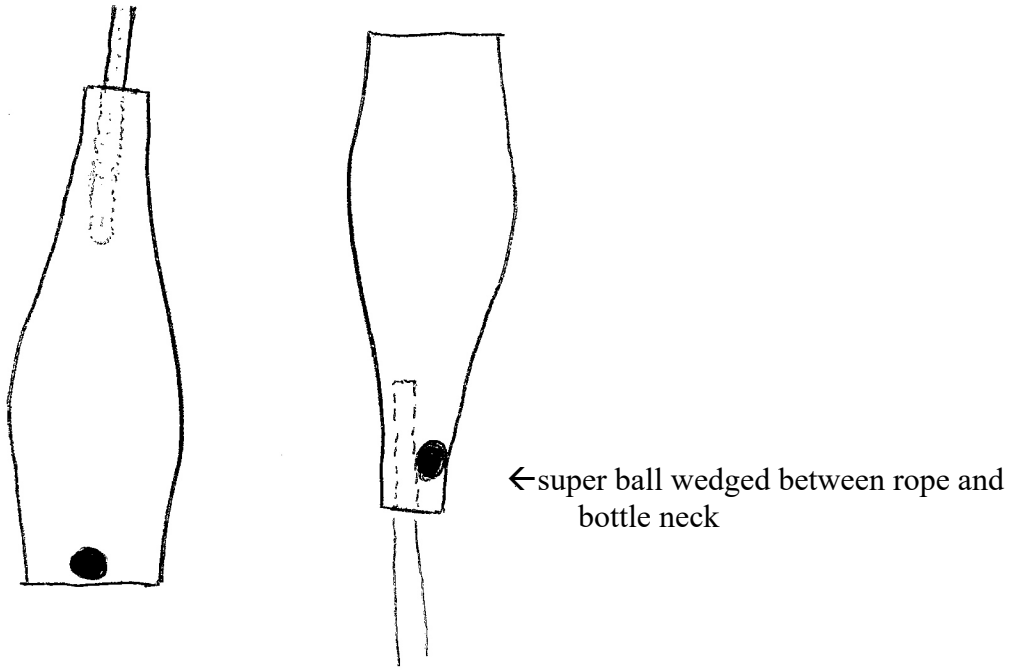
As the helpers pull on their ends the string slides enough in your hand to restore it back to its original shape. After letting the students unsuccessfully pull the string from your hand, re-grip the string "strings" with just your thumb and index finger to demonstrate your "super strength"

You can end the effect there without ever showing the restored piece of string or you can show them that sometimes you don't know your own strength and can fuse the string into one long piece.

This can be used to introduce the idea of balanced forces.

The Rope and the Bottle

You will need a 20-inch piece of stiff clothesline, a bottle or vase with a narrow neck (glass soda bottles work fine), a small super ball, and tape to cover the bottle. At the beginning of the performance the super ball should be resting inside the bottle at the bottom, as shown below:



As long as the bottle is kept upright, the rope won't stick inside. When you turn it upside down, however, the super ball wedges itself between the rope and the neck of the bottle, holding the rope in position.

When finished with the bottle effect, you ask the students whether they "buy" any of this stuff about the "invisible glue". They invariably will say "NO". You then challenge them to come up with a way that would make the rope sometimes hold the bottle and sometimes not hold the bottle. They should try to draw pictures with their explanations. Let their creativity run wild.