

Magic Into Science

Magic is science without explanations. Historically, the alchemists and magicians utilized science along with misdirection and mechanical tricks to make the public believe that they had abilities to perform many transformations or accomplish feats that appeared to violate natural laws. Chemistry has been utilized by magicians for color changes, secret messages, fire and smoke, fluorescence, and more. This presentation used a series of selected demonstrations based on magic tricks and transformations used by professional and amateur magicians.

References used:

Safety note: At the time these books were published, chemical and demonstration safety was not as strongly recognized as it is today, thus, there is little safety information in these books. Before using any demonstrations from these books, refer to modern safety reference books to check all chemicals and procedures. Use extreme care with demonstrations utilizing hazardous chemicals (by today's standards), sparks, fire, and smoke.

Alyea, Hubert N., and Frederic B. Dutton, *Tested Demonstrations in Chemistry*, Journal of Chemical Education, 1962.

This is still the best compendium of chemical demonstrations. All demonstrations are in abstract form and are referenced to the *Journal of Chemical Education*.

Dunninger, Joseph, *Dunninger's Complete Encyclopedia of Magic*, University Books, Carol Publishing Group, 1967.

Ford, Leonard A., *Chemical Magic*, 2nd Ed., Dover Publications, 1993.

Lippy, John D., Jr., and Edward L. Palder, *Modern Chemical Magic* (no publisher listed – available from magic shops)