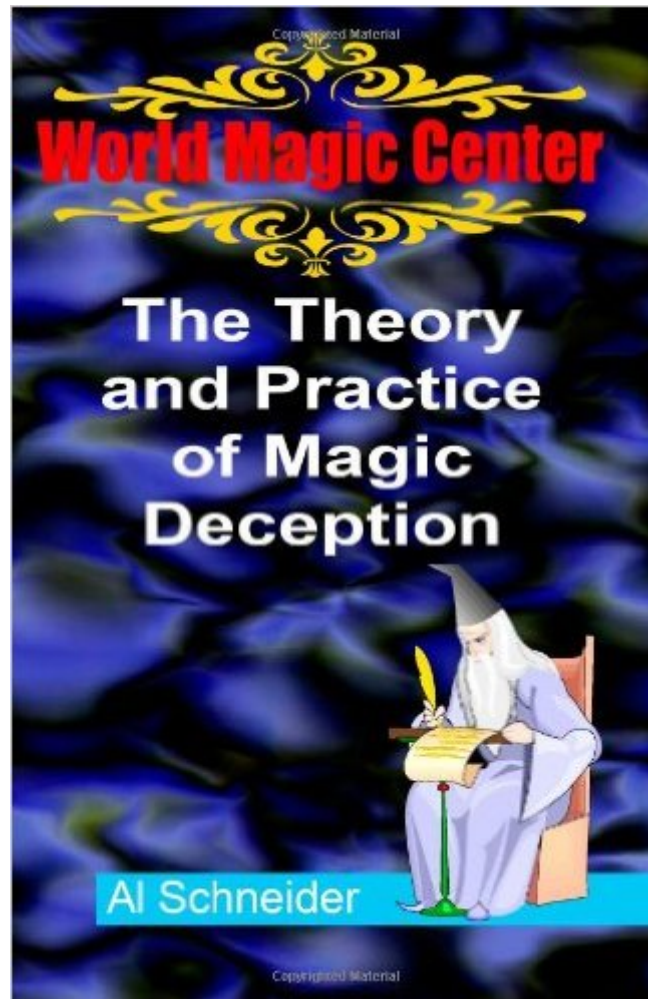


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# The Theory And Practice Of Magic Deception



## Synopsis

This book is about the most in depth, powerful information on deception that is available today. Then, it puts that information into practice with two world-class magic effects. The theory goes into detail on what makes magic, magic. Every aspect is addressed. It includes, how you appear, how your voice sounds, and information about subtle hand motions that affect what your audience thinks. It discusses what goes on in your mind that affects what happens in the minds of others. This is the theory of magic deception. The second part of the book is dedicated to the practice of magic deception. First, a time-tested method to cause a coin to disappear is presented. This is an extensive lesson with many pictures and many details of the very subtle motions involved. Then, an effect is presented that brings the theory of the first part of the book to life and utilizes the student's new ability to cause a coin to disappear. The book ends off with an effect called Zen Matrix. This new routine enhances the half-century-old Matrix routine that has become so popular in magic. Zen Matrix utilizes the theory presented in the first part of the book to magnify the power of the Classic Matrix routine. This book is an excellent beginning for those new to magic. It starts from square zero and accelerates the newbie into master class. The coin vanish taught requires little dexterity. The trick using that move is very basic requiring moderate skill. Zen Matrix requires patience to master. That is expected with an effect as powerful as this. Its mastery may well be worth it for when performed for any group of magicians, the reward will be recognition of your capability as a master magician. Experienced magicians will recognize the theories of Al Schneider but will find that knowledge to be a starting point in this book. This book takes new information Al discovered about how the mind works that has not been incorporated into the material over the last fifteen years. In addition, the experienced magician will find Zen Matrix to be a valuable addition to the Classic Matrix concept. This is not a standard book on magic.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A remarkable book has just appeared on the market, of use to practicing magicians and psychologists, written by a deep thinker and accomplished magician, Al Schneider. Titled "The Theory and Practice of Magic Deception," it describes unique insights, profound analysis, and highly practical prescriptions for doing magic tricks. Schneider is widely recognized in select circles of magicians as the inventor of "Matrix". His quiet personality and gentle manners (also well known to magicians around the world as is clear from magic cafe discussions) make him not particularly known to laypeople, and set him apart from many practitioners of the art of deception. However, admiration is always present in comments that magicians make about him. What he has produced as this book is mind-boggling. This is a book of 587 pages, a part 1 of more than 300 pages dealing with theory, and a part 2, the rest of the book, devoted to practice. The theory discussion occupies 17 chapters and touches upon foundations, history from the author's viewpoint, discussions, fiercely utilitarian as well as theoretical, of the expected topic of Misdirection, but also of two unexpected new realms not present in any similar book I know of. These are Types of Magic and what the author calls Assumptions. The practice part consists of the 18th chapter, "For Beginners Only," the last chapter of part 1 (which in my opinion should have been the first chapter of part 2), a chapter on a coin vanish originated by Schneider, one on an application of the vanish to a classic known as Expansion of Texture, and two more chapters on a novel trick called Zen Matrix. Who should read this book? According to the author in the Introduction, not "raw beginners or the lay public" but for "those that have about a year of experience."

This is a wonderful book on the theory and practice of magic and thus the title is more than fitting. I have been a professional magician for over 40 years now and have read many books on and about magic, but most 'magic' books have to do with the technical aspects of the execution of various sleights and then outlines and explanations of the tricks and routines themselves. That's probably the way it should be, but that only means that books ON tricks are a "dime a dozen". But, books concerning the WHY of magic. The 'why' it works and how to make sure that the magic you do in fact can work better are very, very few. Most could be numbered on the fingers of two hands and again, maybe that's the way it should be. Every 10-20 years or longer someone will take on the task

of putting down in print what they have spent a life time thinking over and experimenting with. That is what you have here. Mr. Schneider's life time of thinking about magic and his attempt to transmit that knowledge to anyone interested enough to not just read a book, but to actually take the time to 'study' what he's offered. And, believe me, it will take study! Should that keep you from buying the book? Not at all. In fact, the 'fact' that it takes study is to me the main reason those interested in magic SHOULD buy the book. Magic theory is not for the dull and intellectually lazy. I've thought about magic theory for decades and I was challenged by material in this book. What would be good about a book that talks about the deepest things of a performance craft only to find that one zooms through the text and never has to stop and think. To consider: Do I agree with this and why or why not? What has my experience taught me and what can I learn from the authors? This is a book to be recommended.

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