Congratulations on your purchase of “Hold Your Fire.” You will now be able to take the flame off of any butane lighter and hold it in your hand like magic!

**EQUIPMENT:** You have received the precision steel “nozzle adapter” (fig. 1). It may have a light coat of factory oil. Just wipe it off with a tissue or cloth.

The adapter is designed to attach to a Mini Bic® lighter’s nozzle to divert its flame 90°. If the jet becomes clogged push a needle or straight pin into the jet to clear any debris.

You need to provide two butane lighters, one of which must be a Mini Bic® lighter. In the U.S.A. these are commonly sold in drug stores and convenience stores. They can also be purchased on the internet.

**WARNING:** Because fire is used, this is not intended for children. When you purchase the butane lighters be sure to read their warning labels.

**PREPARE THE LIGHTER:** Use a pair of needle nosed pliers to prepare the Mini Bic® lighter. First remove the metal shroud by inserting the tip of the pliers into hole on top of the shroud. Twist to the side to release the shroud, then pull it off (fig. 2).

Next remove the curved spring that goes around the flint wheel. Grasp it and pull up firmly to remove it (fig. 3). You will need to use some force to pull it out.

Remove the flint wheel (fig. 4). You may want to hold it over a trash can, as the flint will pop out when the wheel is removed.

Finally, take out the flint’s coil spring (fig. 5).

Figure 6 shows the parts that have been removed from the lighter. You can discard them as they are not needed.

Press the adapter onto the lighter’s butane nozzle (fig. 7). The adapter’s seal will hold it firmly in place.

**USING THE GIMMICK:** The Mini Bic® lighter will be hidden in your hand in finger palm position during your performance (fig. 8). Notice that your middle finger is on the red button. When you press the button, butane gas is released. When you let go, the gas turns off.

You can palm the lighter in either hand, but in these instructions it will be palmed in the right hand and the normal lighter will be held in the left hand.

Are you ready to try it? Why not start with the “Sliding Flame?”

**SLIDING FLAME:** In this eye-popping illusion you will light the butane lighter, then slide it’s flame along the body of the lighter and back to the top! [Click here to view the YouTube video performance](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dQw4w9WgXcQ).

Figure 9 shows the method. Notice how your left hand grips the lighter after you strike it. Your thumb is on the button and the bottom of the lighter is pressed against your little finger. You will need to practice the timing of releasing the button when the flame is “removed” and pressing the other button when the flame is “added.”

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From the audience view it looks like you are holding the flame between your thumb and forefinger. Sounds like it would be too hot to hold, right? Figure 10 shows the side view; your thumb and forefinger are spread apart so that the flame doesn’t make contact.

The solid steel gimmick is designed to stay cool to the touch, even after holding the flame! This allows you to handle and palm the gimmick without discomfort.

**FLAME TO COIN:** Pick the flame up off of a lighter and change it into a coin, ring, etc. [Click here to watch the performance.]

In this handling you will learn “pocket management” of the lighter and gimmick, which allows you to start and end “clean.”

Start with the coin and normal lighter in your left pants pocket and the gimmicked lighter in your right pants pocket.

Bring out the coin and show it in your left hand, then pretend to transfer it to your right (finger palm vanish).

Say, “It’s gone. And I think it went here.” Reach into both pockets and palm the gimmicked lighter in your right hand while your left hand ditches the coin and comes out with the normal lighter. By feel you can orient and finger palm the gimmicked lighter while your hand is in your pocket.

It will look to your audience like you were looking for the coin, but found a lighter instead! Say, “And it changed into a lighter!” This will get a laugh.

Continue, “Let’s try something strange.” Light the lighter, then pick up the flame with your right thumb and forefinger.

While holding the flame, put the lighter away in your left pocket and finger palm the coin. Say, “This is getting too hot to hold!” Pretend to put the flame into your left hand. In a smooth motion your right middle finger should release the button so that the flame turns off while your left hand opens and displays the coin (fig. 11). It looks like the flame changed into the coin!

Finish by picking up the coin with your right hand and putting it away (along with the gimmick) in your right pocket. This handling can be used with a coin, ring, or any other small object.

**FLAME TO LIGHTER:** In this sequence you will take the flame off of a lighter and eat the flame! Then you will transfer the flame back and forth, finally changing the flame into the lighter that you were just holding moments before! [Click here to watch the performance.]

For this routine the normal lighter must be a matching Mini Bic® lighter. Figure 12 shows how to change the flame into the lighter at the end of the sequence.

The gimmicked Mini Bic® lighter will look normal to your audience and they will not notice the gimmick! Finish by putting the lighter and gimmick away in your left pocket.

**ALTERNATE FLAME TO LIGHTER:** When you change the flame into the lighter it is subtle and your audience may not realize immediately that a transposition has occurred.

This version is more “direct” because it looks like you toss the lighter towards the flame, and the flame changes into the lighter! [Click here to view the demonstration.] Figure 13 shows the handling.

**NOTES:** Hold Your Fire must be performed indoors only, as any wind will make it impossible to perform.

When removing the adapter from the Mini Bic® lighter, make sure not to lose the seal. Although the seal is press fit into the adapter, it can occasionally come out and stay on the lighter nozzle when you remove the adapter. If this happens just take the seal off the nozzle and press it back into the adapter.

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