



# **Pre-Coin-Ition**

**by**

**Tom Salinsky**

# Pre-coin-ition

By Tom Salinsky

## Effect

The mentalist pours five different coins into the spectator's cupped hands and commands the spectator to shake them up and then arrange them on the table in whatever configuration seems appropriate. The spectator then eliminates four of the coins leaving only one remaining.

The spectator is reminded that the coins were freely shaken and then arranged, and is then directed to pick up the mentalist's business card which is lying undisturbed on the table. On the back is written "You will choose the 10p coin which will be tails up". This prediction is perfectly correct.

- Coin and orientation are always predicted correctly.
- Everything may be immediately examined.
- Works 100% of the time.
- Business card may be retained by spectator.
- No gimmicks, no gaffs.

## Working

This combines equivoque with a multiple-out in a way which I believe is very hard to reconstruct. You will need to prepare two business cards. On the back of one write "You will choose the 10p coin which will be tails up". On the other, write "You will choose the 10p coin which will be

heads up”. Put them both away in your wallet. (I keep two little stacks of cards in different parts of my wallet).

Pull out a handful of change – about five coins – including a 10p, and also your wallet. I keep my wallet and my change in the same trouser pocket, so it makes perfect sense for me to bring my wallet out at the same time. I’ve lately been experimenting with getting my spectator to pull out “five or six different coins” instead, and got out my wallet while they’re fiddling. Either way, have the coins shaken up in the spectator’s cupped hands.

Next, instruct your spectator to “Arrange the coins however you wish on the table”. You should give the impression that the pattern they arrange them in is in some way important, but not over-stress this. When they begin moving coins around, go to your wallet. As soon as the 10p hits the table, you can bring out the appropriate prediction. No-one has ever turned the coin over (why would they – you’ve not mentioned orientation at all!). As your card hits the table, say “and here’s a little something for later.” When they think back, all they’ll remember is the card and the coins were introduced together. When they have arranged the coins to their satisfaction, they believe the trick is just about to start. As far as you’re concerned – it’s almost over!

You now need to force the 10p coin, and you may very well have a preferred method of doing this. You could use the PATEO force if you like it (I don’t), but I’ll include my equivoque script for five coins in a moment.

Once the 10p is safely selected – untouched by you throughout the routine – remind the spectator what has happened. The more time you can put between the business card hitting the table and the prediction being read the better, so don't rush any of this.

“No-one could have known which coins you had in your pocket” (if the coins came out of their pocket) “and there's no way anyone could have known which coin you were going to pick. Also, you shook the coins up, so there's no way anyone could have known which would land heads up and which would land tails up. Have a look at the back of my business card.”

Now they turn your business card over. And read a perfectly accurate prediction. And instantly fall in love with you! (Last item not guaranteed.)

### **Equivoque script**

This is the script I use, heavily influenced by Max Maven and David Berglas, whose excellent writing on the subject I recommend you read. You should sound confident and definitive as you perform this (even though you are constantly being ambiguous).

Notice that you *cannot have any of the coins picked up at any stage*, since if the 10p is picked up, its orientation may change (or at least be called into question).

Begin by saying... “Five coins. In a moment four of these will be eliminated. Take a moment to examine their

arrangement. Now... will you take your right hand and point at a single coin.”

**If they point at the 10p...** you have a little miracle. Remove the other coins and proceed as above.

**If they point at any other coin...**

continue smoothly by saying “and take your left hand and point at another single coin.”

**If the second coin pointed-at is the 10p...**

Remove the other three coins, saying “Three down and two to go. This is the most important decision of all. Slowly push one of those coins towards me.”

**If they push you the 10p...**

Give the 10p your full attention “You have chosen to give me the 10p out of all of these coins...”

**If they push you the other coin...**

Add the other coin to the “discard pile” and give the 10p your full attention “You have retained only the 10p out of all these coins”.

**If the second coin is not the 10p...**

Remove the two pointed-at coins, saying “Two down and three to go. Now, I want you to cover

one of the remaining coins with your right fingers”.

**If the covered coin is not the 10p**

Continue smoothly by saying “and cover another coin with your left fingers”

**If the 10p remains uncovered**

Give it your full attention. “One by one you have removed every coin from view, except this one...”

**If the 10p is one of the covered coins now**

Remove the one uncovered coin. “You have control of just two coins now. This is the most important decision of all. Push one of those coins towards me.”

You now continue as above; either “You have chosen to give me...” or “You have retained only...”

**If the first coin covered is the 10p**

Well, I guess you could find a verbal form of words that justifies the covering

action as a selection, but I think it's weak. In the first phase, selected coins were removed, now they're retained. In the first phase, you referred to "right hand" because you then went on to "left hand". You are in grave danger of exposing the method. And it's unnecessary, because in fact you can carry on as if the 10p had not been covered first, and go to "You have control of just two coins now". This way, you either just tell them to point at a coin with their right hand (because it's important for some reason) and the coin they point at is the coin they choose. Or, you always get them to do something with the right hand and then something with the left hand.

### **Final thoughts**

Don't be tempted to try this with a single prediction and a double-headed coin. At least half the people I've done this for have immediately checked the 10p to see if it's a double-header!!