

Math Magic Trick

Supplies Needed for Trick:

- Rubber Cement
- Toothpick
- “Outside the Box” PDF activity sheet
- Black eye shadow

Instructions:

When performing the trick for the first time in class we recommend you follow these instructions for the best results.

1. Before class begins, prepare your arm with the magic number. If you are using the grid found in the “Outside the Box” activity sheet the number you will use is 42. Dip a toothpick in rubber cement and “write” the number on your arm. Allow time to dry.
2. When students arrive, ask them to select one number in the grid and circle it. Instruct students to cross out remaining numbers in the same row and column as the circled number. Ask them to circle another number and to cross out remaining numbers in the same row and column. Continue to repeat these steps until four numbers are circled.
3. Ask students to add the four digits circled in their grid. In all cases the digits should give a sum of 42.
4. Call on a student to give their answer, which will be 42.
5. Feel free to let your inner magician out and add any amount of flair to the reveal! You can tell the students, “I will now make your number magically appear on my arm!” You can rub your fingers in black eye shadow at this point or do this before students arrive to add extra drama to the reveal.