

Jay Sankey's Wrap it Up!

"Method: For this upbeat opener you have to be wearing a jacket because you will be using a pull. However... it is a particularly unusual pull. To make it you need a pink animal balloon, a safety pin, a hole punch, some clear tape, and two individually wrapped pieces of pink bubble gum. You'll also need a black marker.

Take the balloon and tie a couple of knots in the end WITHOUT the hole. You should tie the knots directly on top of each other. Now, unwrap one of the pieces of gum, discard the gum, and keep the wrapper. Take the hole punch and punch a hole in the dead center of the wrapper, then feed the balloon through this hole so that the knotted end ends up against the INSIDE of the wrapper. The knots should be bulky enough so that they will not slip through the hole. To finish the preparation, pin the end of the balloon with the hole to the right inside of your jacket at about chest height and slip the wrapped piece of gum into your right outside pocket. Reach into your jacket with your left hand, pull out the wrapper, and then have the right hand take it as in Fig 1. (you don't have the picture). Now, with the marker, darken the section of the balloon that runs from your jacket cuff to inside the jacket.

To begin, walk up to your audience while pretending to be chewing a piece of gum...this will require practice to be convincing without appearing forced. After half a minute or so of talking/chewing, suddenly realize that you are chewing gum and fish around in your pockets -apparently for the wrapper- and get the wrapped piece of gum in your right pocket into the right hand finger palm. Open the left side of your jacket with your left hand, dip your right hand inside, and come out empty. Then, open the right side of your jacket with your right hand and move your left inside. Once there, grab the dangling end of the balloon -with the knots and loose wrapper on it- and pull it out far enough to be taken with the right fingers which let go of the edge of the jacket as the left hand moves out. The knotted end should be firmly pinched between your right thumb and middle finger to insure that the wrapper doesn't tear or bend under the tension of the pull.

From the front, the audience see the back of your hand with a gum wrapper held at the fingertips.

At this point you have two options. Either you can reach up to your mouth with your left hand, pretend to remove some gum, and then mime putting it in the wrapper OR you can move both hands up to your mouth and mime taking the gum directly into the wrapper. Choose whichever feels more natural for you.

Either way, when you've apparently put the gum in the wrapper, grab the front edge of the wrapper and bend it down and forward so that by slightly tilting your right hand, the crowd gets a good look at the supposed lump of gum sitting in the middle of the wrapper. Be careful not to flash a corner or side of the finger palmed gum in the right hand.

To finish, simply toss the wrapper and the palmed gum straight up in the air and the wrapper will immediately be pulled back inside your jacket as the fresh piece of gum continues to ride-out the toss upwards. Catch it in your obviously empty hands and give it away."

-excerpt from Twenty Years of Sankey Magic p. 8