



Color Conscious
Luke Jermy

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INTRODUCTION

Well happy holidays to you all. I hope you enjoy this little routine. I decided to open this new year with a routine designed as something 'fun' to act as a convincer that the performer has a deepened understanding of psychology and the ability to forecast a person's choices and reactions to situations. This is a very good way to lead into a longer routine. You may choose to dress the routine up as a 'mind game' or 'test' to lead into something else. It could form the perfect little 'game' to play with friends and family around the dinner table with people trying genuinely to guess which colors people would pick before you launch into performing the routine itself. Maybe even hide the envelope stack and a false set of 'game instructions' inside a tin of Christmas crackers (cookies for you Americans) and mount a sneak attack on your loved ones! In fact why not pick up a pack of 'build it yourself' Christmas crackers and hide away your entire show in the form of 'gifts' within the crackers! A dinner table destroyer if ever I have heard of one.

EFFECT

The performer displays five envelopes each containing different colored papers: Red, blue, green, yellow and orange. The performer displays the five colors and tucks each of them back inside in the envelope. The stack is handed to the spectator who is instructed:

“When my back is turned, I want you to pick one of those colors. Whichever one you want. Do not let anyone else see the color, however I want you to go for the color that is interesting and feels correct for you. I will also tell you this – 80 percent of the time at this point people hand me one color. I am not going to tell you what color that is, as then it would not work, however we will see if this works as I expect it to. So when I turn away, pick the color and then place it onto the table hidden in the envelope. Hold onto the others.”

The performer faces away and the spectator picks one of the colors and retains the last four envelopes. The performer turns and faces the spectator, saying:

“You see given those choices most people will decide to place the red onto the table. I think this is also true of you, correct?”

The spectator confirms that indeed they have placed the red paper onto the table. The performer picks up the envelope and pulls the red paper from within to confirm that indeed they have placed the red onto the table.

The performer continues:

“Of course now that you have made one decision it affects your next. If I asked you to think of one of those other colors right now most people instantly go to green.”

The spectator reacts confirming indeed they had thought of the color green. The performer continues:

“However, now I have told you that, feel free to change your mind if you want to... or if you wish you can stick with green. It is totally up to you. Hand me another one of the colors hidden inside of the envelope. I will turn away so you can check you get the color you want.”

The performer turns and continues talking:

“Of course, now that I have mentioned the green, there is a high chance you wouldn’t go to repeat that choice. Have you finished?”

The performer continues:

“However, of course the fact I told you I did not think you would repeat that choice might have been a double bluff on my part in order to make you stick to your decision, which I believe you will have and green should be on the table.”

The performer reveals that green was the color chosen by the spectator and placed onto the table. The performer places this next to the spectator’s first choice. The performer continues:

“Of course now that you have reduced the potential choices from the five colors to only three, the scope of your choice narrows. However, the potential for you to either act in the way I feel you might, or to break the chain of predictable behavior, becomes much more difficult to forecast. However I believe at this point there is only one option you will be able to take. You have a choice of three. I again will turn away and this time I want you to notice whichever color makes you feel happy and whichever color makes you feel sad. I know that is an odd thing to say, but colors affect our emotions. I want you to pick whatever makes you happy and place it into your right hand and whatever makes you sad and place it into your left hand. Do this for me now.”

The performer turns away, and then continues:

“Color can really affect the way we feel. There have even been studies about what happens to people when they spend large amounts of time in a room painted one color. For example, the common myth that if you spend all your time in a yellow room you at some point will go insane, actually comes from the fact that in studies people who spent their time in a yellow room found it much harder to focus than those in another color.”

The performer turns around and continues:

“Which of course would mean that you are unlikely to have picked the yellow as either happy or sad, and I believe you would have left it on the table.”

The performer opens the envelope on the table and it is indeed the yellow paper. He then continues:

“And happiness tends to be linked to orange, maybe because it feels warm and sadness blue.”

The performer opens each of the envelopes displaying he is indeed correct.

METHOD

In order to perform this routine you will need five envelopes each containing a different colored card. I personally use red, blue, yellow, green and orange, however your preference will decide on the colors you use.

The envelopes will be marked. I have chosen to mark the envelopes by affecting the flap that would normally seal the envelope. I begin by trimming one of the envelopes short, the second envelope is trimmed short in an angle so it 'slopes' from right to left, the third envelope is trimmed with a slope running left to right, the fourth envelope is trimmed on the rounded corners and finally the last envelope is unmarked. I arrange the colors inside of these marked envelopes as follows:

Red = 1, Blue = 2, Yellow = 3, Green = 4 and Orange = 5. A quick glance at the flap of the envelope instantly alerts you to which color is contained within. It is vital that you are able upon an instant glance to identify which color rests within the envelope. While I have chosen to mark the envelopes in this manner, feel free to substitute this method for anything that you prefer. Many options are available, and I am sure you already have your personal method for such things.

From this point onward there is little more to say about the actual 'trick', however the delivery is really what sells this. The core concept is for the performer to begin all of his scripting (revealing information) with his back to the audience and then in a continuing action turning around and finishing the reveal of the information incorporating the color he sees due to the marked envelope.

On the final phase of the routine I make use of the classic Annemann over the shoulder peek to really allow me to reveal which of the colors has been left on the table and state this with my back to the spectator. This motivates my turning back to face the spectator as I then open the envelope and check. From here I continue the scripting, noticing

which marked envelope has been placed on which hand, indicating whether it is happy or sad.

CREDITS

I have long played with color as a premise for a match up effect / predicted actions routine. It also struck me as being a nice alternative for ESP cards and such. For a while I made use of the classic Fillman principle often found in children's magic sets. The routine above is something is fun. When the performer is comfortable creating the illusion the reveal has already begun — even before he knows the color chosen, it is actually rather strong.

I recently saw fellow Englishman Looch's DVD set 'Your Thoughts Are Mine' which includes a color routine that shares some links to this effect. If you enjoyed this routine I recommend Looch's routine, which has a nice kicker finish that could be combined with this sequence very well.