

THE SNEAKY

BOOK FOR

BOYS




How to perform sneaky magic tricks, escape a grasp, craft a compass, walk through a postcard, survive in the wilderness, and learn about sneaky animals and insects, sneaky escapes and sneaky human feats.

CY TYMONY

The Sneaky Book for BOYS

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Introduction

If you're a boy, you're a born sneak. You love to know something that others do not and fool your friends with magic tricks and illusions. Yet, some of you do not receive science instruction that relates to the real world, and this might explain why many you do not excel in science later in life. The Sneaky Book for Boys provides a way to learn the basic principles of science, improvisational resourcefulness, and have fun at the same time.

You don't have to be MacGyver to adapt unique gadgets, secure a room from intruders, or get the upper hand on aggressors. You can learn how to be a real-life improviser in minutes using nothing but a hodgepodge of items fate has put at your disposal. Sure, it never hurts to have the smarts of Einstein or the strength of Superman, but it's not necessary. The Sneaky Book for Boys is packed with science projects, sneaky product reuse applications, magic tricks, and seemingly impossible feats that will stump your friends. You will amaze your friends at a moment's notice with just paper and cardboard while demonstrating how to conserve our resources.

Created for lovers of sneaky tricks, gadgetry, and trivia, The Sneaky Book for Boys is an amazing assortment of over 100 fabulous build-it-yourself projects, self-defense and survival strategies, product reuse ideas, and fun magic tricks. The Sneaky Book for Boys also highlights incredible stories about sneaky humans and critters that will amaze and inspire. After reading this book, you will revel in your newfound powers and glance around the room with a sly grin.

You can start your entry into sneaky tricks and resourcefulness [here](#).

Part I

Sneaky Tricks

Here are some fun and foolproof tricks you can do anytime to amaze your friends. Each sneaky trick uses odds and ends you have with you or around the house. The best part? These illusions don't require a big production, special skills, or dexterity.

Want to know how to spin paper with your hands without touching it, turn a black-and-white image into color, or step through a postcard? Break seemingly unbreakable string without scissors? Detect counterfeit currency with a common household item? Perform other sneaky magic tricks? It's all here.

With a little preparation and a personalized delivery, you'll be ready at a moment's notice to perform these amazing feats.

Before you show off your new tricks, be sure to memorize the sneaky magician's rules:

- ▶ Practice until you can do the sneaky trick with your eyes closed.
- ▶ Don't reveal the secret behind the trick.
- ▶ Don't repeat an illusion to the same audience.

Detect Counterfeit Currency

Whether it's a hundred-dollar bill or a one, getting stuck with counterfeit money is a fear many of us have. In the United States in 2002, \$43 million in fake currency was circulated. When counterfeit currency is seized, neither consumers nor companies are compensated for the loss. So what can we do about it? This project describes two methods to tell good currency from bad.

The first method is a careful visual inspection of the bill. Compare a suspect note with a genuine note of the same denomination and series. Look for the following telltale signs:

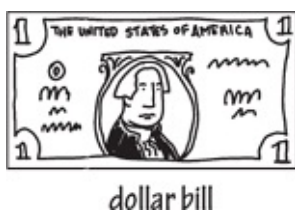
- 1.** The paper on a genuine bill has tiny red and blue fibers embedded in it. Counterfeit bills may have a few red and blue lines on them but they are printed on the surface and are not really embedded in the paper.
- 2.** The portrait and the sawtooth points on Federal Reserve and Treasury seals are distinct and clear on the real thing.
- 3.** The edge lines of the border on a genuine bill are sharp and unbroken.
- 4.** The serial number on a good bill is evenly spaced and printed with the same color as the Treasury seal.

The second way to verify paper currency is to test the ink. How can we do this in a sneaky way, at home or in the office? Easy by using one important feature of the ink used on U.S. currency. A legitimate bill has iron particles in the ink that are attracted to a strong magnet. To verify a bill, obtain a very strong magnet or a rare-earth magnet. Rare-earth magnets are extremely strong for their small size. They can be obtained from electronic parts stores and scientific supply outlets. See the Resources section at the back of this book.

You can also use small refrigerator magnets, connecting them end to end to create collectively a much stronger single magnet. See [Figure 1](#).



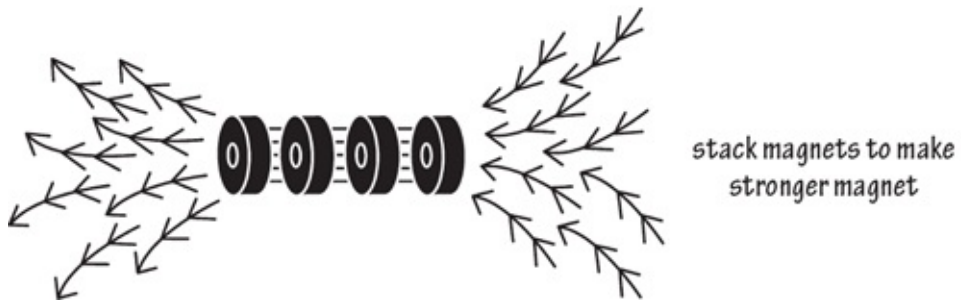
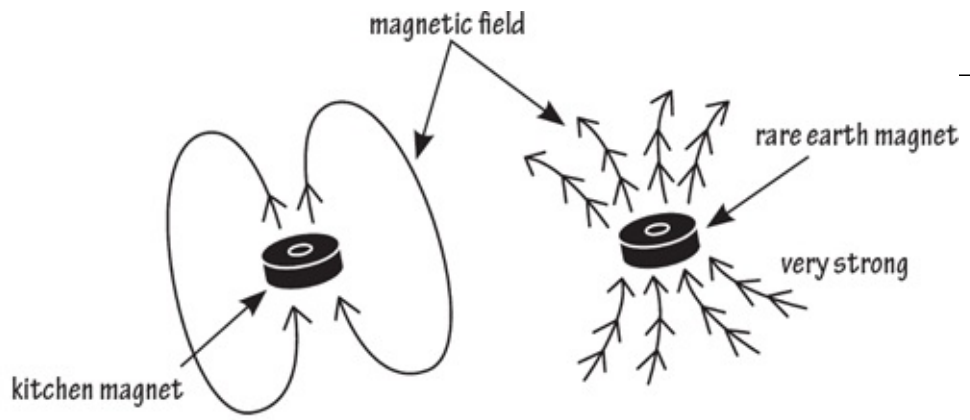
- ▶ Dollar bill
- ▶ Strong magnet



What to Do

Fold the bill about in half crosswise and lay it on a table, as shown in [Figure 2](#). Point the strong magnet near the portrait of the president on the bill, but do not touch it. A legitimate bill will move toward the magnet, as shown in [Figure 3](#).

FIGURE 1



Whenever you doubt the authenticity of paper currency, simply pull out your magnet and perform the magnetic attraction test.

FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3



Sneaky Hiding Places

Hide and Sneak: Secure Valuables in Everyday Things

You've seen movies where a character hides something at home and you think, That's the first place I'd look! Well, this project will illustrate how to choose sneaky locations that are the last places a Man of Steal would look. You don't always have access to a safe deposit box or can install alarms on all of your possessions. But you can find sneaky hide-in-plain-sight places to frustrate a thief and waste a thief's time.

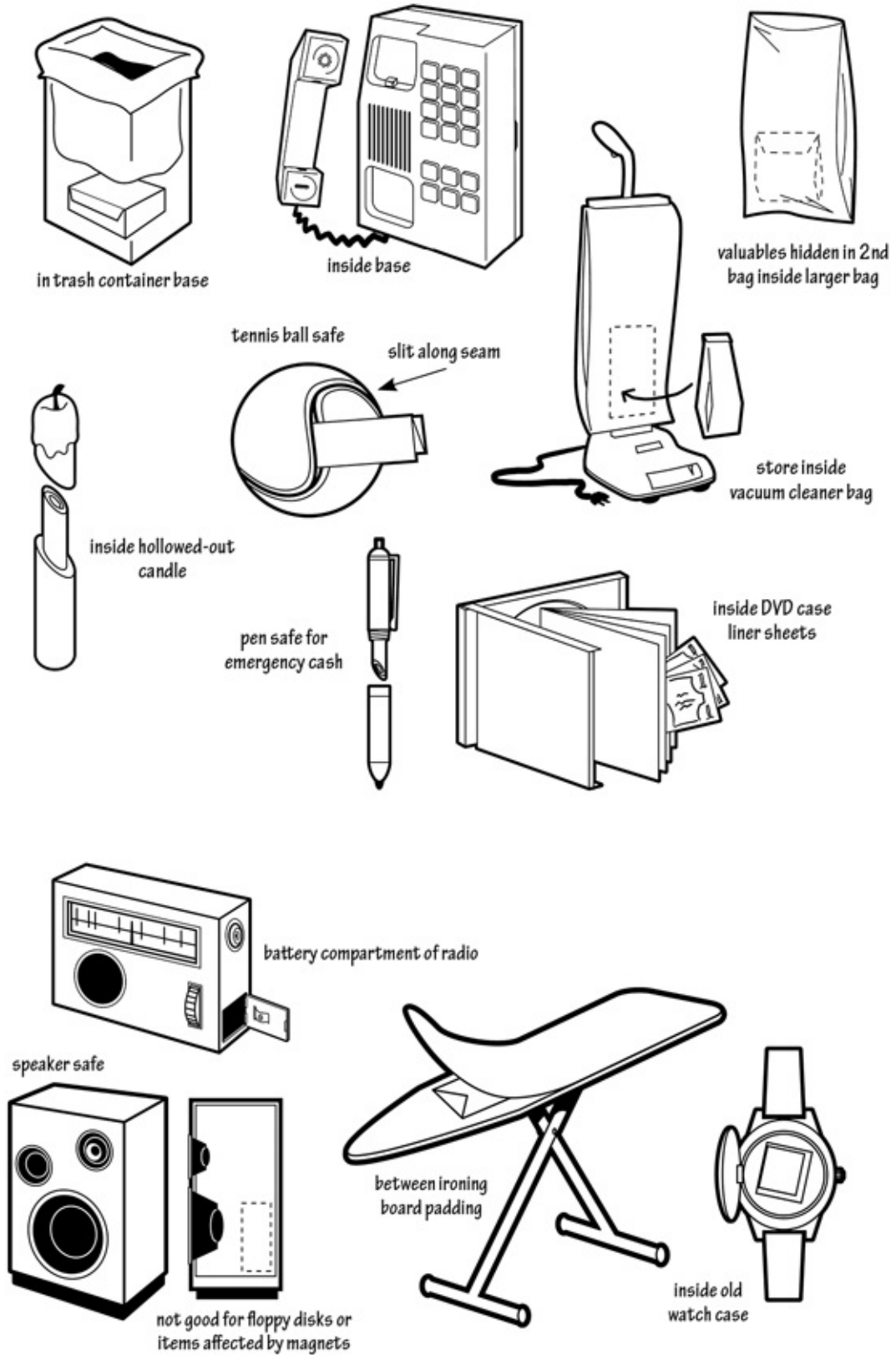
Selecting this hiding place generally depends on two factors: the size of the item and the frequency of access required. From a package of soap to a tennis ball, a typical home offers a variety of clever hiding places, as shown in [Figure 1](#). Wrapping your valuables in black plastic bags will further prevent discovery.

With enough time, a tenacious thief can eventually find virtually anything you hide. That's why you should have a room entry alarm installed in combination with sneaky hiding places to reduce the time a thief will spend searching for your valuables.

More Hide and Sneak

When you think of sneaky you usually think of something that is secret or hidden from you. Actually, the most common sneaky use application is hiding your valuable belongings from others.

FIGURE 1



The following ideas can be used to keep your things to yourself, even if they are in plain sight. Most likely a thief or no houseguest will briefly examine the item and then ignore it as a possible safe. See the list below for more examples.

▶ *Figurine*

▶ *Tissue container*

▶ *Video or audio cassette shell*

▶ *Inner pocket*

▶ *Shoestring*

▶ *Between magazine pages*

▶ *Inside a candy box*

How to Escape a Grasp

When possible, avoid physical confrontation. If necessary, call for help. Throwing punches is futile and dangerous, and in many cases, you injure your hand when you hit the other person. But in some instances, you may be attacked or grabbed without warning. In these situations, you must do something. The following techniques show easy-to-learn escapes that do not require lots of strength and can be quickly mastered.

As shown in [Figure 1](#), the weak spot on the hand is between the thumb and forefinger. When an assailant grabs you, you will have a big advantage toward escaping his grasp if you locate this weak spot on his hand.

By pulling or twisting against the weak spot, as shown in [Figures 2](#) and [3](#), you will escape from an assailant's grasp without a lot of effort. Practice this technique with a friend until it's a reflex action.

FIGURE 1



FIGURE 2



FIGURE 3

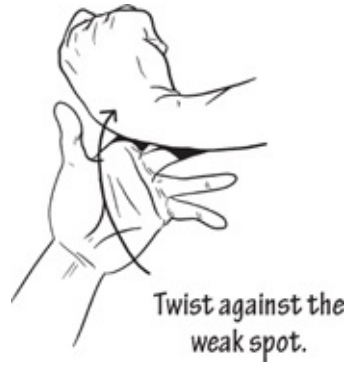


FIGURE 4





FIGURE 6



If someone grabs your arm with both hands as shown in [Figure 4](#), use your free arm to grab your other hand as shown in [Figure 5](#). Then raise both arms and turn ([Figure 6](#)). This will affect the weak spot on both of the assailant's hands causing him to release his grasp.

Similarly, if an assailant grabs both of your arms, as shown in [Figure 7](#), rapidly pull your arms upward to force him to release his grip. See [Figure 8](#).

FIGURE 7



FIGURE 8



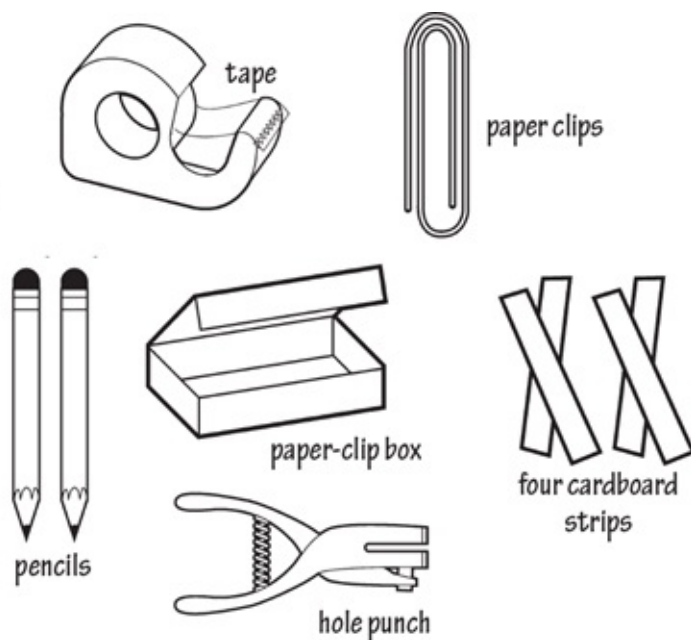
Sneaky Tracing Machine

Some items cannot be copied using a chemical transfer technique because their images are printed on coated paper or, in the case of text, the image will be reversed.

Another way to make a duplicate of an original image is to use a Sneaky Tracer.

What's Needed

- ▶ Four cardboard strips
- ▶ Hole punch or nail
- ▶ Paper clips
- ▶ Paper-clip box
- ▶ Tape
- ▶ Two pencils



What to Do

First, cut two pieces of cardboard, each measuring 2 by 8 inches. Then cut another two pieces, each 2 by 4 inches.

Arrange the cardboard pieces in the pattern shown in [Figure 1](#) and then punch holes in the corners of the shape. Bend paper clips into C shapes and push them through the holes to secure the pieces, yet still allow them to move freely.

Next, punch pencil-sized holes in the cardboard at points A and B, just large enough so a pencil can fit through snugly, and insert a pencil in each (see [Figure 2](#)). Now place the copier device so one end rests on the top of the paper-clip box and secure with tape.

The box acts as an elevated mounting platform to keep the pencils balanced and stable yet free to move about.

Last, select an original drawing that you want to trace and set it under the pencil in hole A. Place a blank sheet of paper under hole B. Use pencil A to trace the drawing and you'll see another picture being created by pencil B. If necessary, secure the pencils to the cardboard and the paper to the table with tape. See [Figure 3](#).

Now you can easily trace complex drawings and make copies for your needs. Experiment with the lengths of cardboard, and you'll see that you can easily enlarge or reduce the size of the drawings made.

FIGURE 1

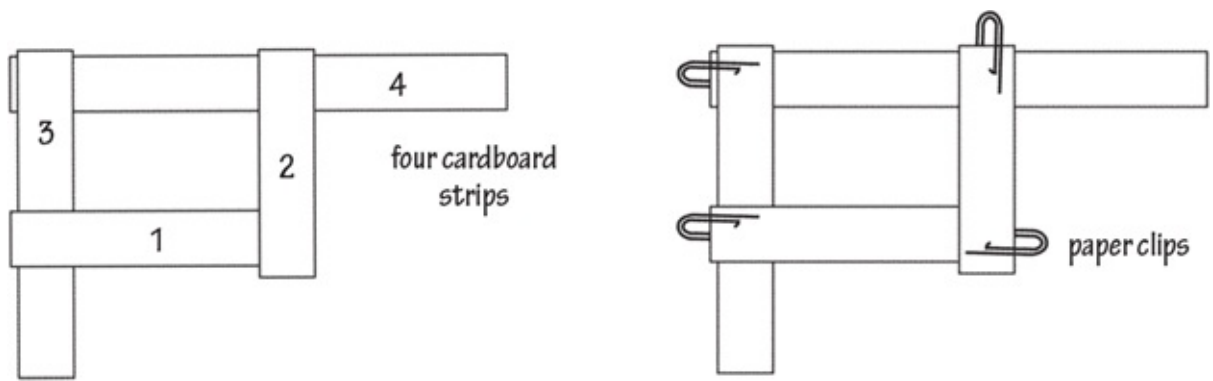
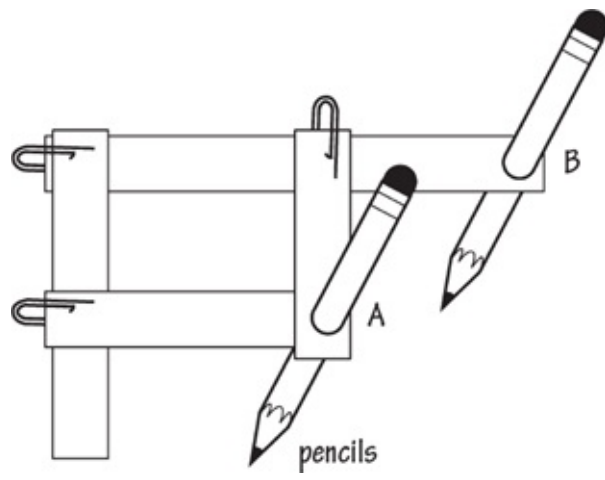


FIGURE 2



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