

CROSSEYED!

By Dr. Bill

Our guest quickly writes four numbers in a column, as if to add them up. He immediately covers them with his hand, acknowledging that neither of you could possibly know the sum of the four.

Upon his lifting his hand, you immediately write four numbers in the other direction, forming a “number- cross” so to speak. You state that you have no idea of the total of the four numbers you just wrote down and the guest acknowledges the same.

You explain that this is an exercise you use to help warm up your mind for more strenuous efforts, sort of like mental stretching so you don't pull any brain muscles. While doing so, you were operating on autopilot and when “in the zone” some very interesting things can happen.

You ask the guest to total the four numbers he freely chose and wrote down. Let's that they total 124. This is literally the first time either of you know the total of his choices.

You ask him to total your four numbers. They too equal 124. Again, this is the first time either of you knew the total, let alone that they both are the same.

You state, when “I'm really in the zone, I can take things a bit farther. Let's see, yes, I think it worked.

You demonstrate that when the first and last numbers chosen by the guest are added to the first and last numbers you chose, they also add up to 124!

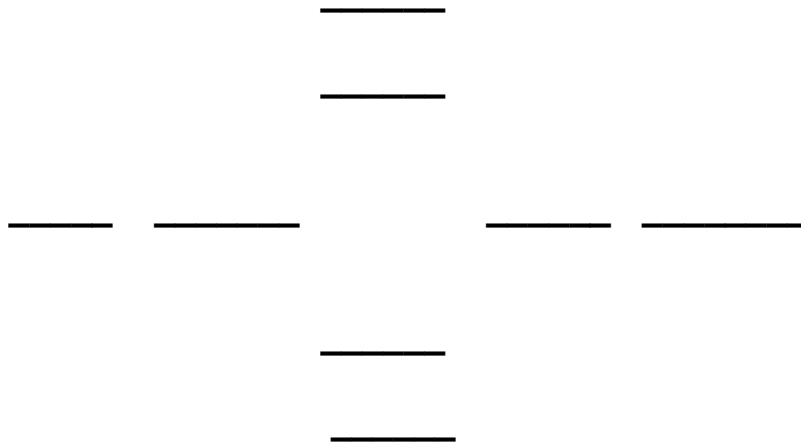
You go on, “It is rare, but when two minds really click, one last match can happen.” You show that when you add up the four middle digits you both chose (two each), the two total..... 124!

CROSSEYED is an effect that happens in a matter of seconds but provides a similar impact as a magic square. It is easy to perform but when it is over your audience will credit you with tremendous powers of observation and concentration. After that, it will be easy to convince them of anything!

METHOD:

Like I said, this is easy! Feel free to complicate it if you must but there really isn't any reason to so so.

I begin by setting up four dashes in a column, to guide where the guest will write. They are placed in the same form as for an addition problem. In the other direction are more dashes running horizontally. A gap is left between the 2nd and third dashes, vertically and horizontally as below:



No one knows what is going to happen yet. Imagine that the guest writes his numbers in the column and we will designate them as A, B, C, D. Your letters in the row are designated by the letters, get ready, E, F, G, H.

		<u>A</u>		
		<u>B</u>		
<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>		<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>
		<u>C</u>		
		<u>D</u>		

All you will be doing is adding and subtracting the number three from your guests' choices in a simple way. Here are the "formulae."

$$E = C + 3$$

$$F = D + 3$$

$$G = A - 3$$

$$H = B - 3$$

Here is a completed cross:

$$\begin{array}{cccc} & & 21 & \\ & & \hline & & 39 & \\ & & \hline 47 & 21 & 18 & 36 \\ \hline & & 44 & \\ & & \hline & & 18 & \\ & & \hline \end{array}$$

TOTAL = 122; THE GUEST'S COLUMN, YOUR ROW, THE FOUR OUTLYING NUMBERS AND THE FOUR CENTRAL NUMBERS ALL TOTAL 122 WITHOUT HAVING TO DO ANYTHING MORE THAN ADDING AND SUBTRACTING "3" TWICE.

When the guest covers his column, he or she literally will have no idea what his numbers total. And neither will you! Stress this; point out how the audience member you are addressing knows you are telling you the truth because you are! It is a good, congruent feeling that will get communicated to your audience on a non-verbal level. In his wonderful Act II, Barrie Richardson stresses this, making a very good point that I feel didn't get nearly the attention it deserved. Sure there were a lot of cool toys, techniques and routines but sometimes it is these "little" things that make big things happen.

Barrie might say, for example, "You can tell by my voice and my body language that I'm telling the truth." Statements such as this used judiciously and when congruent with reality can be quite powerful.

Good spots in CROSSEYED include both times you each lay out your four numbers. Yes, you are using a “mental method” but that doesn’t mean you know the outcome of using the method so why not get as much out of it as you can?

Have fun with this. It is a gem of an opener. You have very little to do and the audience has no idea where you are heading. It creates shock, laughter and surprise all of which serve to enhance rapport. And all it takes is something to write with and upon!