

“Mint Shifter”

Chad Long

The magician takes a small candy cane, heats it with a lighter, and rolls it around on the table. When his hand is lifted, the candy cane is seen to have changed into the shape of a ball. Once again the candy is heated, and then smacked flat on the table beneath the performer's hand. This time, when the hand is lifted, a flat mint is found.

What you need

A lighter and 3 pieces of candy: a small piece of candy cane (about 2-3 inches long), a red & white striped peppermint ball (usually the size of a large marble), and finally a red & white, flat and round peppermint (**Fig.1**).



Set-up

Start with the peppermint ball in your left jacket pocket, and the other two pieces in your right, along with the lighter.

Method and Routine

Reach both hands into your pockets, and come out with the peppermint ball finger-palmed in your left hand, and the candy cane held in your right, between the second finger and thumb. Hold the candy cane so it's pointing to the left. Pretend

to take the candy cane with your left hand (**Fig. 2**), but secretly swivel it back into the right using your right first finger (**Fig. 3**). Continuing, your right hand goes



back to its pocket, leaves the candy cane, finger-palms the flat mint, and comes out with the cigarette lighter (**Fig. 4**). Flick the lighter, and slowly start crumbling your



left fingers, as you wave the flame beneath them. Cellophane noise is fine here. After a couple of seconds, place your left hand palm-down on the table, and start

moving it around in small circles, as though rolling dough into a ball. Lift your hand to reveal the change, as your right hand places the lighter on the table.

Pick up the ball with your left hand, and pretend to place it in your right. I basically use David Roth's 'Shuttle Pass' here. Be careful not to flash the finger-palmed mint in the right hand. After your right hand apparently takes the ball, it closes into a loose fist, turns palm-down, and smacks the flat mint against the table (**Fig. 5**).



Slowly lift your right hand to reveal that the flat mint. To clean up, pick up the lighter with your left hand and place it in your pocket, ditching the palmed candy at the same time.

Stuff

My friend Charlie Justice suggested doing the changes on a spectator's hand, first rolling it into a ball, and then flattening it on their open palm. Cool idea!

You can use those small candy canes that come in a string of about 10 around Christmas time. Also, your right pocket could have a bunch of the flat mints in it, so, at the end of the routine, you can just give the candy away. This would be great for strolling at any holiday party.

My routine is based on an old effect called Gem Busters. This trick used a small cube with different colored gems on it. The cube was 'rolled' into a gem-covered ball, and finally flattened into a disk with the gems around its edge.

* For Chad Long's DVDs, lecture notes & tricks, visit www.ChadLongMagic.com