

# The Magic Biscuit Tin

(Routine by Peter Gardini)

## Effect

Items left over after Christmas are displayed, an empty biscuit tin that was given to you as a present when it was filled with biscuits, a length of ribbon that was used to tie one of the Christmas wrappings, some coloured paperclips that were used to clip the Christmas cards up with, some odd Lexicon cards that were tidied up after a family game and a couple of bits of Blu Tak that were used to hold up the decorations. The performer puts all these items into the biscuit tin and places the lid back on the tin. When the lid is removed again, the ribbon is pulled out and the cards are now attached to the ribbon with the paper clips, and spell out 'GOD LOVES YOU'. The tin can be again shown to be empty.

## You will require

- 2 identical round biscuit tins with domed lids
- 2 lengths of ribbon
- 2 sets of coloured paper clips
- 2 sets of Lexicon cards to spell GOD LOVES YOU
- 2 bits of Blu Tak adhesive



## To make the magic tin

Using a tin opener, remove the base from one of the biscuit tins as in Fig 1.. After removal from the tin the base will have to be reduced in diameter slightly so that it will drop easily from the lid into the open end of the whole tin. Carry out this operation using a pair of sharp heavy duty scissors. The tin that has had the base removed can now be discarded.



Fig. 1



Fig 2

### Setup

Spell out the words ‘**GOD LOVES YOU**’ with one set of the cards along one length of ribbon. Fix each one in position with a paper clip and a small spot of glue at the back in case the clips slip off. Place the finished ribbon concertina fashion into the lid of the tin and then place the circular base from the other tin on top of the cards and ribbon. Secure the disc in position with two small balls of Blu Tak as in Fig 2. With careful handling the lid can now be put on and taken off the tin without the circular flap falling down.

Place the loose cards, the other ribbon and the paper clips into the tin and carefully place the loaded lid on the tin.

### Routine and patter

”I was given this biscuit tin as a Christmas present but now the biscuits have all been eaten and the tin has been used to collect all the debris that was left over after Christmas was finished. Lets see what we have inside”

***Removed the lid and place the tin on your table. Holding the lid with the thumb and finger of one hand so that the flap does not drop out, remove the two bits of Blu Tak and casually flash the inside of the lid. Don’t make a big thing of this.***

“We have a couple of bits of Blu Tak that we used to hold up some of the Christmas decorations.”

***Carefully place the lid mouth up on your table and pick up the tin. Remove all the items inside one at a time.***

“We have a length of ribbon, that was used to tie up one of the presents, we have some coloured paper clips, they were used to pin up the Christmas cards over the fireplace, and finally we have some odd Lexicon cards which must have been missed out when we packed all the games away.”

***Show that the inside of the tin is empty.***

“So is that what Christmas is all about, emptiness and rubbish when the festivities are over? Let’s try and use some of the magic of Christmas and find out what Christmas is all about.”

***Place all the items back inside the tin and carefully place the lid back onto it. This should cause the flap to drop into the tin releasing the load of cards clipped to the ribbon. If there is any uncertainty that it has happened, a gentle sideways shake of the tin should release the flap.***

“Now I want you all just to open your hearts and minds and believe that miracles do happen and we will see if we can reveal the true meaning of Christmas for the whole World.”

***Take off the lid of the tin, slowly pull out the cards on the ribbon and display the cards between both hands as shown in Fig. 3.***



Fig. 3

Obviously the same routine but with different patter could be used for birthdays or other similar functions. Use your imaginations. A change bag could be substituted for the biscuit tin but I think that the biscuit tin makes the effect a bit special and different from the usual effects.