Friday Illusion: Impossible straw and pin trick

By: O.T. Gattouph on November 25, 2011 1:29 AM

In this video, a straw appears to pass through a rusty pin. Wonder what the trick is?

Developed by Russian enthusiast Grig Begis of Grig Begis Productions in Pennsylvania, it’s a variation of a well-known optical illusion that exploits the limitations of light.

Ross devised the setup while training with a straw, toothpick, and rusty pin. The first pinned the straw and toothpick and fashioned the two with the pin. By applying pressure on the pin with the straw and toothpick conoid, the straw opens around 180 degrees, but it moves so fast that neither our eyes nor our camera can detect the rotation.

I wanted to somehow create a solid through solid effect, which took a few days further into the design of such illusions, rather than magic,” Ross explained. “Super slow motion is not necessary for the trick to work. According to psychologist Alex所得, author of the book “Illusions of Light” assuming the narrow straw is about the same size as a pin, we can’t see it and it looks like it doesn’t move more than about one rotation in those thirty. However, conditions that the lens blur the pin data at a rate of about 120 revolutions to create a nearly half circle. When the illusion was

If you would like to recreate the illusion yourself, you can download a PDF from Ross that demonstrates how to make your own straw and pin trick.

For more tips on illusion tricks, check out our previous post on which tricks create a

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O.T. Gattouph on November 25, 2011 1:29 AM

It seems like a natural illusion to me. I would like to see the video again and see if I can figure out the trick. 

Janis on November 20, 2011 8:30 AM

Interesting. I'm going to try to make one at home.

G. T. Gattouph on November 25, 2011 1:41 PM

That's a cool trick. But isn't it a bit too easy to figure out? 

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