

# 10 Below Zero

by Andrew Normansell

Reviewed by Peter Duffie

*10 Below Zero* is the latest offering from Andrew Normansell, a professional magician from Manchester in the UK. The "10" in the title refers to "One magician, nine ice-cool effects." I tell you this in case you wonder why there are only nine routines. Offered on the DVD is a mixture of card, coin, and mental effects.

In *Tequila Sunrise*, the four Queens are removed from a blue deck and, one by one, the backs change to red. Finally, the complete deck turns red.

Four *Gone* conclusion is a trick in which a selected card vanishes from the deck and then returns face up. Then, as a kicker, the entire four-of-a-kind turns face up in sympathy. The trick uses any regular deck and can be performed completely impromptu.

In *Golden Triangle*, a coin is placed within a triangle of matchsticks which is covered by a card, and then a matchbox is placed on top of all.

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The coin vanishes and is found inside the matchbox. There are no credits given at all, yet Davenport's of London was selling this same coin vanish at least 35 years ago. I know because I bought it by mail order while I was in high school. Normansell has added the reappearance of the coin inside the match box; however, without any crediting, one could easily assume that the whole idea was being presented as an original.

*Funky Little Number* is a trick in which a magic square is created, the sum of which is the same as a freely chosen number. Then a prediction is produced from an envelope in the performer's wallet that accurately predicts how much loose change the spectator is carrying. Again, no credits are given, and the magic square method used here can be found on page 68 of Karl Fulves' *Self-Working Number Magic* [The Automatic Magic Square].

In *King Con*, a selected card is divined, then a spectator shuffles the deck. The four Kings are now produced from the shuffled deck. A very interesting con is used here to avoid losing the Kings in the deck, and there is an excellent production of a King using a repeated swing-cut. Unfortunately, Normansell fails to explain this, simply referring to it as a "swing-cut application," so you will need to watch the video carefully with deck in hand to work it out.

In an effect called *Reverse Osmosis*, three coins are magically extracted from a purse, appearing one by one at the fingertips, after which they travel back into the purse, one by one. The trick uses an expanded shell and is not too difficult to do, though a good classic palm is required.

*Souvenir* is a different presentation for Darwin Ortiz's *Dream Card* and Brother Hamman's *The Signed Card*. This uses an old picture frame and an antique playing card with an odd colored back. A spectator selects a card from a deck and signs his name on its face. This card is placed between the four Jacks, from where it vanishes. The antique card is now turned over and it's seen to be the spectator's signed card. Unfortunately, this card cannot be handled by the spectator and must be replaced inside the photo frame before anyone tries to pick it up.



*Signature Piece* is said to be a presentation of *Anniversary Waltz* with no gaffs. Here, at the end, both spectators' signatures appear on the back and face of the one card, rather than a double-faced card. However, this was the original effect by J.G. Thompson Jr., as published under the title *Joint Signature* in *Pallbearers Review*.

An alternative handling of Vernon's *Travelers* is dubbed *Rapid Transit*. Four signed cards travel to four different pockets, but with only one palm. There is one gaffed card involved, but you no sooner have it in play before it's safely back in your pocket again, so you start and end clean. However, the removal of the second card from the pocket is not altogether convincing.

In short, this is a nice collection of close-up routines from a man who is obviously a worker. The consistent let-down is a lack of appropriate credits.

*10 Below Zero* DVD by Andrew Normansell. £22.99 (\$35) postpaid worldwide. Available from Big Blind Media, [www.bigblindmedia.com](http://www.bigblindmedia.com), or from your dealer. Dealers contact Murphy's Magic Supplies, [www.murphymagic.com](http://www.murphymagic.com).

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