

## CRITERIA FOR LINKING RINGS MASTERY AWARD

In order to receive the Linking Rings Mastery award from Ring 16, the following criteria must be met:

1. The performance of a Linking Ring routine is not limited to the standard 8-Ring routine. It may use any number from 2 up. It may include things other than Rings, such as (by way of illustration and not limitation) coat hangers. However, it is intended to be a stage routine, not a linking finger ring trick.

2. The performer must present a performance of a Linking Ring routine including some of the following techniques or material:

- a. The apparent penetration of solid through solid, including linking the rings, passing the rings through some other extraneous item (e.g. buttonhole, microphone cord or stand, etc.).
- b. Creation of attractive or instructive figures;
- c. False Counts to apparently show separate Rings;
- d. Method(s) of convincing the audience that all of the Rings have been examined by the audience.
- e. Concealment of the gaff(s).

3. Methods should be varied, and should include sleight-of hand techniques, not merely mechanical means. Use of mechanical devices may, of course, be included. For example, a locking key might be used to help conceal the gaff, or disarming handling might do the same thing.

4. The performance routine is very important. It should be smooth, polished and sufficiently involved to demonstrate the performer's in-depth knowledge of the effect. Preferably, the routine should be original, although the performance of a classic routine will not disqualify the applicant.

5. All of the material should be performed in a deceptive manner. Regardless of the entertainment value, magic must fool the audience. While you may not fool the councilors who will be judging the performance, they must be convinced that the material would fool the lay audience. Performances that entertain but do not fool the audience are not magic. They may be comedy, drama, storytelling, etc., but they are not magic.

6. The performance is to be a finished, polished performance, not merely a demonstration. Attire, attitude, skill and presentation are all part of the judging criteria.

7. This award is something to be proud of. It must be earned. The judging criteria will be higher than entry initiation performances. The applicant is expected to be an advanced practitioner of Linking Ring magic.