STACKED ODDS

Bet you can remove only the bottom checker of a stack without touching it!

THE SETUP
Stack eight checkers on a smooth surface. Strike the bottom checker briskly with the edge of a table knife.

INSIDER INFORMATION
The bottom checker snaps out and the stack remains stacked, just one checker shorter.
There is a law of physics that explains this trick: the law of inertia. An object at rest will remain at rest unless acted upon by an outside force. In this case the knife exerts the outside force but only to the bottom checker.
The only force acting on the rest of the stack is friction. If the bottom checker moves off fast enough, the friction is so small that it has no noticeable effect on the rest of the stack.
The same principle is in effect here as in the trick where you pull a tablecloth out from under a fully set table. If you are really good with the checker gimmick, then you might set your sights on the tablecloth.