Paralyzed Fingers

**THE TRICK:** The magician tells the audience that he will paralyze two of the fingers of any volunteer so that they cannot move on their own.

**THE SECRET:** When a volunteer approaches, the magician tells him to press the middle knuckles of one hand against the middle knuckles of the other. Then he says, "Now draw your hands apart," a motion the volunteer can easily perform. Next he has the volunteer move his knuckles together again and raise the ring fingers of both hands so that the tips are touching. The magician then mutters some "mystical" mumbo jumbo to cast the hypnotic spell. Afterwards, he challenges the volunteer to move the two fingers apart without moving his hands in any way. The volunteer tries, but finds that he cannot move the fingers at all. No hypnosis is involved; it's just that the position of the hands makes it impossible for anyone to move these two fingers.

Another Version

_The finger lifting stunt seems to be causing quite a bit of debate and it would be good to collect some data on it. So, could everyone place their hand like so…._

_Except that the knuckle of the second finger should be on the table. Now, can you lift your third finger off the table? Would be great if everyone could post to give me an idea of the percentage of people who can. Also, if you can do it, any idea why? Are you a musician?_

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