COLD-BOILED

Bet you can “boil” water without heat!

THE SETUP
For this weird illusion you will need a small handkerchief and a juice glass about three-quarters full of cold water. Wet the center of the handkerchief and put it over the mouth of the glass so it curves slightly into the glass. Now cover the mouth of the handkerchief-covered glass with your right palm. Lift the glass with your left hand, keeping the mouth tightly pressed to your right palm. Invert the glass. The water should not leak out. Grasp the glass with your left hand near the mouth. Hold the glass and handkerchief firmly and briefly lift the glass off your right hand. To make the water “boil,” slide the handkerchief up the sides of the inverted glass with your left hand and press down on the bottom of the glass with your right hand. As the handkerchief tightens on the mouth of the glass, bubbles form and come to the surface. It looks as if the water is boiling.

INSIDER INFORMATION
Of course, the water really isn’t boiling. But it does give a very good imitation of it. When the glass of water is inverted, a partial vacuum is created in the space above the water. When you tighten the handkerchief across the mouth, air rushes into the glass through the holes in the cloth to fill the vacuum. This produces bubbles that make the water appear to be boiling.