DROP SHOT

Pass a coin through a solid.

Okay, you're not really going to pass a coin through a solid. However, people will believe you can.

You will need:
• a quarter
• a lipstick tube or other small cylinder with a diameter about the size of a quarter, but smaller
• a thin latex glove (the kind used by doctors and dentists)
• a small clear jar
• a rubber band

1. Place the coin, heads up, on top of a small cylinder standing on a tabletop. Rinse off the inside of the rubber glove to get rid of its coating of talcum powder.

2. Stretch the palm part of the glove over the coin by pulling down evenly in all directions. Stretch the latex thin enough so that the image on the coin is clearly visible. Now ease off the pressure. The latex will trap the coin, and it will appear to be sitting on the top surface of the latex. Warning: Don't pull too hard or the rubber will tear.

3. Stretch the glove gently over the mouth of a small jar, being careful not to dislodge the coin. Fasten the glove with a rubber band. The coin, which is really on the underside of the rubber, looks as if it is sitting on top of it.
Once you're set up, invite an audience. Claim that you can make the coin pass through the latex without making a hole in it. Follow up by giving the coin a tap from above. It will drop like a shot into the jar, leaving the rubber undamaged.

Insider Information
Latex rubber is a material that has a memory. You can bend it or stretch it, but when the distorting force is removed, the rubber returns to its original shape. You're exploiting this property twice in this trick. The round shape of the coin is a key element in trapping it in the rubber. When the rubber is stretched over the rim of the coin and then released, the latex underneath the coin pulls together to form a ring that holds the coin in place. When you release the coin with your tap, the latex that was underneath the coin is then free to return to its original flat, unstretched state.