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# DECEPTOLOGY

## SCIENCE OF MAGIC



ROPES THROUGH  
ANYTHING



Make two pieces of rope tied together pull apart magically using Gestalt psychology. Watch this [video](#) for an explanation of the science behind the magic!

### MATERIALS



- ❖ **Two pieces of soft rope**  
(long shoelaces are perfect)
- ❖ **A small piece of sewing thread**
- ❖ **Three handkerchiefs or napkins**



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CREATIVE VICTORIA

# ROPES THROUGH ANYTHING

## STEP ONE

Fold each rope in half and tie the two centres together with the small piece of sewing thread. Don't tie the thread too tightly as you'll need to break it later in the trick.

## STEP TWO

Lie the ropes out flat, still folded and attached by the centre, as shown in the picture below. You'll be covering the bends attached by thread with a handkerchief, so it will look like two straight pieces of rope.



## STEP THREE

Tie one handkerchief around the middle of the ropes, being careful not to reveal the folds in the middle section.



## STEP FOUR

Tie the other two handkerchiefs onto the ropes halfway between the middle section and ends.

## STEP FIVE

Take one rope from each end and tie a tight knot.



## STEP SIX

You're ready to perform the trick for your audience. Take the rope ends that you *didn't* tie in a knot and pull them as hard as you can. This will break the thread and the ropes will seem to pass through the handkerchief magically.

## Questions and further research

1. [Watch Dante The Magician Sawing a Lady in Half](#). How do you think he might be using a similar principle to achieve his trick?
2. Research magic by exploring the [WG Alma Conjuring Collection](#) held at State Library Victoria. Almost all images from the collection have been digitised and are available via the [Library's catalogue](#).