

# Devil Sticks



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## General Tricks

### Idle

Difficulty: 

This is the standard devilstick hit between the two handsticks, it is also called the tick-tock. I am not going to describe how to learn to devilstick. The [books I have reviewed](#) are both good sources if you are just learning. You can also check out the JIS page on [Getting Started](#).

#### Variations:

One thing to practice when idling is the crossed arm idle, right over left arm and left over right arm. This can help when trying to some of the tricks listed below.

### Under Leg

Difficulty: 

There are a couple of ways this trick can be interpreted. You can start all of them from the [Idle](#) position. The first is lifting your leg and putting your handstick under your leg for the next hit of the devilstick. The second is to lift your leg and pass the devilstick from one handstick to the next under the raised leg. The latter may require a little more leg lift. When doing it either way there are the many different combinations: left leg, right leg, passing from inside leg to outside, outside to inside, etc.

#### Variation:

One variation to under the leg is to keep your foot on the ground. You will have to squat down a bit to get the handstick under your leg for this move. Once you can do it with either hand then alternate, left under, right under, etc. The final step is to put both your handsticks under your legs (feet on ground) and idle the devilstick in front of you. This is kind of funny looking, and its a little hard to keep the devilstick high enough in front of you so it doesn't hit the ground.

#### Second Variation:

Another variation of "under the leg with the foot on the ground" is putting the left handstick under the right leg and vice versa. To do this take your right foot and step over the left foot. Now if you lean down to the left you can put the left handstick under the right leg to hit the devilstick out of an idle position. Then you can do the same thing with the left over right leg and right handstick between.

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juggling club, before you bring your arm back around (I find it easier leaving the handstick flat).

### Leg Roll Over

Difficulty: 



Start off doing an [Idle](#). When tossing the devilstick across from one handstick to the other, lift your leg and have the devilstick roll over the top of your thigh. The devilstick will do a half flip as it rolls over your leg before the other handstick hits it.

#### Hint:

Work on getting the devilstick center to roll over the middle of your leg. The center of the devilstick should be in the same location as if you picked the devilstick up in the center and then balanced it horizontally on your uplifted leg.

Practicing on doing it left to right and right to left. Once you can do it both ways it looks real nice when done solid. There are a couple of variations on doing it solid. One way is to never let the devilstick leave your leg. Just before it would roll off your leg you give it a push with the handstick, rolling it back the other way. The second is to let the devilstick actually roll off your leg, catch it with the handstick and then toss it back onto the leg for another roll over. They are subtle differences, but I have noticed with the first variation you can force the devilstick back and forth over the leg much quicker.

#### Variation:

One thing to do as the devilstick is rolling over your leg is to do a [Handstick Flip](#). Each time you roll the devilstick over your leg do a handstick flip with the handstick just used to do the rollover.

### Pass Under Leg

Difficulty: 

This is a little different variation of the [Under the Leg](#) trick. Start off doing an [Idle](#). When tossing it from the left handstick to the right, give it a little extra spin. Start lifting your leg for the pass under it. The right handstick then stops the devilstick horizontally. While it is in this horizontal position pass it under the uplifted leg to the left handstick. Once the devilstick has at least passed half way through under the leg you can hit the devilstick

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#### All Variations:

Be sure to try all variations of under the leg; right under right leg, right under left leg, left under left leg, left under right leg, and each of those with the foot in the air and the foot on the ground.

### Behind the Back

Difficulty: 

Start by doing an [Idle](#). When the devilstick leaves your right handstick bring the handstick around your back to the other side. You should have enough time while you hit the devilstick with your left handstick to get your right handstick around for the hit. If not, you could give the stick a full flip as it goes to the left side. Once the right hand behind the back has hit the devilstick, you can either bring it back around and go into an idle, or leave it back there and idle with one hand behind your back.

#### Hint:

When bringing the handstick behind your back try to point it straight down so that it will not catch on your body or clothes.

#### Variation:

One nice looking trick is doing continuous behind the backs. Once on the left side, once on the right, etc.

### Behind the Back, Leave Handstick

Difficulty: 

This trick first starts with a [Behind the Back](#) hit. After the devilstick is hit with the handstick that is behind the back, let go of the handstick. Then bring your arm back around to the front and catch the falling handstick. You will need to do all this before the devilstick needs to be hit with the handstick you are catching. It is a very quick trick, but it can be done. The real trick is then to get constant behind the backs going on your right and left side. Then start leaving the handsticks and catching them on both sides. Talk about needing to be fast and accurate!

#### Hint:

When dropping the handstick that is behind the back, give it a little toss so that it will stay in the air longer. The hard part is getting the stick to stay flat so it is catchable when you bring your arm back around. Of course you could give the handstick a flip, like a

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with the left handstick. This trick is similar to the [Stop & Go](#) trick, except you have your leg going over the devilstick.

Additionally you could do this trick continuously around the leg and it appears that the devilstick is doing a circle around the leg. Thanks to [Conrad Roberts](#) for this tip.

### Pass Behind Back

Difficulty: 

Passing the devilstick behind the back can be done in a couple of different ways. The first method is to start from an idle. Now get into the position of doing a [Behind the Back](#) continuously (one hand always behind the back). Let's say that the left hand is behind your back. When the right handstick hits the devilstick give it more push to go completely behind your back to the left side. Now you can do a behind the back continuously on the left side (right hand is behind your back).

The second method is to pass it behind your back out of a [Curl](#). This depends a lot on which direction that the devilstick is spinning (CW or CCW). From your right hand, if the devilstick is spinning in a CW rotation, start a curl. Once your hand has come all the way around the turn, and is above the devilstick bring it around your back for the pass to the left hand. This is a difficult trick, and you may want to give the devilstick a toss so your left hand can catch it. Couple of hints: the slower the curl, the easier it will be to pass it, and it might be easier to bend forward a bit when trying the pass.

A very nice version of the second method was done by Jochen Schell on the '95 IJA videos.

Thanks to [Tom Ryan](#) for reminding me to put the trick on these pages.

### Roll Over Back of Neck

Difficulty: 



Start off doing an [Idle](#). When the devilstick is being passed from the left handstick to the right handstick, start bending over to place your neck in the middle of your handsticks. When you then pass the devilstick back to the left handstick roll it over the back of your neck, which should be in between the handsticks. This is very similar to the [Leg Roll Over](#) trick.

In the picture I have just put the devilstick on the back of my neck with

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the right handstick. After it rolls off I will catch it on the left handstick.

Hint:

Before you put your neck between the handsticks try to get the devilstick close to your body, and probably a little higher than normal. It will then be much easier to bring your head down between the handsticks.

## Double Leg Roll Over

Difficulty: 

This trick is similar to the [Leg Roll Over](#), except you get the devilstick to roll over both legs. I first saw John Portman, one of the members of our [juggling club](#) do this trick.

Start off by doing a [Leg Roll Over](#). Once the devilstick has almost finished its roll over, and before it falls off of your leg, jump up with the foot that is still on the ground. Bring this leg up so the devilstick can roll off one leg and continue to roll over this one.

So one complete cycle of this trick would be: From the right handstick roll the devilstick over your right leg. Then jump up to continue the roll over the left leg. The devilstick will then fall off your left leg and the left handstick can hit it.

## Stop & Go

Difficulty: 

This is a fairly easy trick that looks real nice when done continuously. I will first explain the trick with both handsticks, then going to the [Single Stick Stop & Go](#) should be fairly simple (and much more impressive :-)).

Start with doing the idle. Give the devilstick a little extra spin when tossing it back to the right side. When the devilstick hits the right handstick stop it so that the devilstick is parallel with the ground (the stop). Don't toss it back to the left side. With the devilstick still horizontal, take your left handstick, bring it under the left side of the devilstick, and do a normal hit (the go) to the right hand where you can "stop" it again.

Hint:

When you stop the devilstick with the right handstick, be sure to move the handstick out

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of the way. The devilstick will then hang in the air for a second. It will also prevent it from looking like you are just catching the devilstick on both handsticks during the stop.

Variation:

A nice variation to add to the Stop & Go is to do a [Handstick Flip](#) with the handstick doing the "go". If timed correctly, the handstick will be flipped, caught, and be right under the devilstick for another "go" just as the other handstick does the stop.

## Single Stick Stop & Go

Difficulty: 



To do the single handstick version of the [Stop & Go](#) just do the following: When you stop the devilstick horizontally with your right handstick, move the right handstick to the left side of the devilstick and give it a [backhand hit](#). To keep it going with the single handstick it will be easier if you give the devilstick a full spin before stopping it with the right handstick again.

In the picture I have just stopped the devilstick on the right side, and will move the handstick underneath and do the backhand hit on the left side the devilstick.

## Stop & Go Reversals

Difficulty: 

This is a variation of the [Stop & Go](#) where you are changing the direction of the devilstick spin on each stop.

From a [Stop & Go](#), or an [Idle](#), stop the devilstick in a horizontal position with the right handstick. Take the left handstick and do a [backhand hit](#) (you are hitting the devilstick on the same side you did the stop on) to reverse the direction of the devilstick. Then have the left handstick stop the devilstick in a horizontal position. Bring the right handstick over to do a backhand hit, reversing the direction, which will bring you back to the right hand stop again. So you are doing a backhand hit to a stop with each handstick. Then just keep doing the Stop & Go's with the reversals on each side.

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Hint:

Be sure to keep the devilstick as horizontal as possible on the stops, otherwise it is hard to do the backhand hits.

## Handstick Flips

Difficulty: 

This is a nice trick to do with the handsticks while doing an [Idle](#). After the right handstick tosses the devilstick to the left side, give the right handstick a half flip in the air, like a juggling club. Catch it in the same hand. If you can do a slow idle it should give you enough time to do it with both hands.

Hint:

The hard part is not to have the handstick collide with the devilstick. So try to toss the handsticks a little higher or to the outside. Also, there are two ways I have seen this done.

The first is to do the flip as you are lifting the devilstick to toss it to the other hand. The flip is a natural motion while doing the toss. This is the way that I do it.

The second variation is to do the flip after you toss the devilstick to the opposite side. The flip is done about the same time the opposite hand is catching the devilstick. The flip needs to be done much quicker in this fashion since there is not much time before the devilstick is tossed back. The flip looks a little more deliberate this way, but more smooth flowing the previous way.

Variation:

[Walter Park](#) showed me a variation of doing a handstick flip while doing the [helicopter](#). Its about the same difficulty as doing it during an idle.

## Handstick Flourishes

Difficulty: 

There are a number of different flourishes you can do with a handstick as you are devilsticking. You can use these flourishes in a similar fashion to the [Handstick Flip](#) trick. Or you can incorporate some of these flourishes into different tricks you are doing. I describe four different flourishes below.

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### Thumb Roll Flourish

This flourish is done by rolling the handstick around the thumb, so it spins in a horizontal plane. The right handstick flourish is spun in a clockwise direction, looking down on the handstick. You need to stick your thumb straight up in the air as the handstick spins around it. Also, to get the momentum of the spin, use your wrist not your arm motion. After each flourish you may need to adjust your grip on the handstick because it tends to crawl down the handstick with each spin. It is possible to spin the handstick in both the CW and CCW direction around your thumb. However, I find spinning the stick around the outside edge of the thumb quite a bit easier than spinning it around the inside edge.

### Club Flourish

This particular flourish is a common juggling club move. The description may be a little tricky without illustrations, but here goes.

Start with the handstick in the right hand, 1/4 of the stick out of the thumb end of the hand and the other 3/4 sticking out the back end of the hand. Hold the hand so the handstick is vertical, the short (thumb) end is on top. Now use your wrist to start rotating the handstick toward your body, it will stay on the inside of the arm. Be sure to keep the handstick in a plane perpendicular with your body during the rotation. When you have rotated the handstick about 90 degrees your wrist will not be able to continue the rotation with your hand closed. At this point you will need to open your hand and pinch the handstick between the thumb and the hand. Keep rotating the handstick until you are in the position where the hand is open, palm up, with the handstick in a vertical position pinched between the thumb and hand.

Continuing the rotation of the handstick, you are going to transfer the handstick pinch from the thumb and hand, to the index and middle finger.

With your palm open, facing up let the handstick continue its rotation so that the handstick falls between the first and middle fingers. Let go of the thumb pinch once the handstick is between the first and middle fingers. You should be able to go from the handstick in a vertical position, between the thumb and hand, long end up, to the position where the handstick is in a vertical position, between the first and middle fingers, long end down. Now you will need to bend your hand at the wrist backwards a bit so that the rotation can continue with the long end of the handstick on the outside of the arm. This last part of the flourish is like a drummer's flourish. The handstick will rotate around the outside of the arm until your palm is face down, with the long end of the stick up. The rotation will then put the short end of the handstick into your palm, handstick horizontal, pointing away from you. That's it! (Good luck understanding what I just tried explaining!)

### Drummer's Flourish

You may have seen drummers doing this kind of flourish with their drum sticks (hence, the name). What you do is place the middle of the handstick between the index and middle finger. Some people prefer to place it between the middle and ring fingers. Open your hand up so it is flat and the handstick is sticking out to the right and left of the hand.

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Then if you start to give your hand forward and backward wrist motions the handstick should start to spin in a plane parallel with your hand. It may seem awkward at first, and the handstick may not spin like it should. But, give it a little practice and it will get smoother. Also try to do the flourish with 1/4 of the handstick on one side of your hand and 3/4 on the other (this may be a little easier to flourish). Warning: Large doses of MTV is not guaranteed to help improve this trick.

### Baton Flourish

This flourish is from spinning a handstick like a baton. Hold the right handstick in the middle with the index finger and thumb, palm down. The handstick should be in a horizontal position, parallel with your body. Start to give the handstick a clockwise rotation. When the handstick is about perpendicular with your body you will need to start turning your hand so it is palm up. When your hand is fully palm up the handstick should be parallel with your body again. Keep rotating the handstick in the same direction. You will need to start turning your hand so that the palm is going to again face down. The handstick should have then done one full revolution. Also note that one half of the stick is always rotating above your arm and the other half is rotating below your arm.

### Flourish Hint:

Sometimes an idle is too fast to do a particular handstick flourish. So what I tend to do is give the devilstick one propeller spin, while doing the flourish in the other hand, before I toss it back to the other side. This looks nice when done solid on both sides.

## Handstick Balance

Difficulty: 



This trick may take a little practice before getting the timing down solid. When tossing the devilstick from the left handstick to the right, have the right handstick stop it at a 45 degree angle. Then take the left handstick and catch the bottom end of the devilstick. There is not much time to catch the bottom end before the devilstick wants to fall off the right handstick. If you are successful in getting the left handstick on the bottom end, you should be able to use the right handstick to bring the devilstick to a vertical position so it is balancing on the left handstick.

In the picture I caught the devilstick on the right handstick and am now balancing it.

### Hint:

You may want to try to practice balancing the devilstick in a vertical position on a handstick before you try to do this trick from an idle.

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## Single Stick Handoff

Difficulty: 

This is a variation on single sticking. Lets say that you are single sticking by doing half flips of the devilstick, the handstick is in your right hand. After you hit a forehand hit on the right side, pass the handstick to the left hand. This pass is not thrown, but it is a handoff from one hand to the other. The left hand can then catch the devilstick and go into single sticking with the left hand. Once you get this handoff down, then work on passing the handstick back and forth on every half flip. This is like doing a normal [Idle](#) with half flips, except that there is only one handstick used.

### The pass:

There are two slightly different ways of passing the handstick back and forth. The first is to keep the handstick perpendicular to your body for the pass. With this pass the left hand holds the handstick on the same side the right hand does. The second variation is to have the handstick in a parallel position to your body when passing (and parallel to the ground). In this variation the left hand will hold the opposite end of the handstick than the right hand.

## Single Stick With Horizontal Balance

Difficulty: 

The object here is to keep the devilstick in a horizontal position when hitting it with the handstick.



This is a single sticking trick that you can get into from an [Idle](#) or other similar type trick. When the handstick hits the devilstick it doesn't give it any toss or flip. What you are trying to do with the devilstick is to tap it on either side to keep it in a horizontal position so you can eventually balance it on a handstick. When the devilstick is balancing on a handstick the center of it is resting on the handstick.

In the picture I have the center of the devilstick balanced on the handstick.

### What to do from here:

From this position, devilstick balancing on the handstick, I like to use the other handstick to hit the devilstick into a horizontal spin (like a helicopter). You can then do a few [helicopter taps](#).

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## Handstick Balance 2

Difficulty: 

Here is another way to get the devilstick balanced vertically on a handstick (as in the [Handstick Balance](#)). Start with the devilstick resting horizontally on both handsticks (the [Static Start](#) position). From there toss the devilstick just a little in the air and catch it horizontally in the center with one handstick (either left or right). You can also get to this position doing the [Single Stick Horizontal Balance](#) trick. When the devilstick is perfectly balanced on the handstick, start rolling the handstick to one side of the center tape. This will cause the devilstick to slowly fall off the handstick. When the devilstick is at about a 45 degree angle give it a little toss in the air. The devilstick should still be rotating a little, and if it is at the right speed you can catch the devilstick on it's end when it is in the vertical position.

## Single Sticking

Difficulty: 

Single sticking is when you keep the devilstick in the air with only one of the handsticks. There are many different tricks that can be performed with one handstick. I am going to cover two different versions of idling with a single handstick. The first method of single sticking is the easier of the two.



Start off doing an [Idle](#). When the right handstick tosses the devilstick, give it extra spin so the devilstick will do a half flip. Now rather than the left handstick hitting the devilstick, bring the right handstick over to the location where the left handstick would be. Then after the devilstick has done its half flip hit the devilstick with the right handstick, which is on your left side. I call this a [backhand](#) hit. You can then keep this going by hitting the devilstick with forehand and backhand hits while giving the devilstick half flips between hits.

In the picture I am about to do the right hand backhand hit.

The second variation is to give the devilstick only quarter flips. This is a harder method because the devilstick is hit much quicker. Also, after a forehand hit the handstick needs to be taken out of the plane of the devilstick and moved to the other side for the backhand hit.

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## Half Flip Handoffs

Difficulty: 

These are tricks that use the [Single Stick Handoff](#) while passing the second handstick in different ways. Be sure you can do the [Single Stick Handoff](#) continuously. I'll describe the first variation in detail, and then list other ways to pass the second handstick.



### Handstick in mouth:

Starting from an [Idle](#), when the devilstick lands on the right handstick, put the left handstick in your mouth. When you put the handstick in your mouth it should be horizontal and you should bite down on the middle of the handstick. Now give the devilstick a half flip with the right handstick. While the devilstick is flipping, hand the right handstick to the left hand ([Single Stick Handoff](#)). After the handoff, take the handstick out of your mouth with your right hand. As you do this the left handstick will be catching the devilstick. You can then toss the devilstick back to the right side and go into a different trick or do this continuously.

### Note:

It is much easier if the half flip of the devilstick is a little slower than usual. This will give you time for the handstick passes.

Using the base trick of the [Single Stick Handoff](#), there are many different ways to pass the second handstick. Here are just some variations on the pass:

- On the chin - Balancing it vertically or horizontally.
- In the crotch of the leg behind the knee.
- Tossing the handstick in the air - This can either be above or below the other handstick being handed across.
- Windshield Wiper - The pass is a toss in the air, but try to make the toss such that the handstick is parallel to your body and sweeps across like a windshield wiper. I got this idea from a club juggling trick.
- Behind Back - Do a behind the back throw of the handstick during the handoff. The throw will most likely be easiest if the handstick does a full flip (similar to a club juggling throw).
- Dip - This throw is done such that the handstick spins in a propeller like fashion. If the right hand does a dip throw, the handstick will be spinning clockwise. This is a club juggling throw and gets its name from the dipping action right before the toss. It will be easiest if the handstick does a one and a half flip or double flip.
- Over The Top - This is similar to the Dip, except that the throw will go in the opposite direction. It also has a propeller like spin and a right hand throw will spin counter-clockwise.

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- Flat Spin - This is also called a helicopter spin because the handstick will be thrown with a spin like a helicopter. This is a bit difficult with a handstick, but can be done. However, I think the Dip and Over the Top look much better.

As you can see from many of the examples above, you can do almost any club juggling throw for the second handstick pass.

## Two Handstick Pass

Difficulty: 

This is similar to the [Half Flip Handoff](#), except both handsticks are passed in the air. There are a couple different variations of this trick.

The first method of doing this trick is to pass the handsticks to the opposite hands leaving the handsticks in the plane of the devilstick. From an [Idle](#), after the devilstick is tossed from the right handstick, start moving the right handstick toward the left side. You will keep the handstick in the plane of the devilstick and the handstick will be crossing over the top of the devilstick. As you are bringing the right handstick toward the left side, bring the left handstick toward the right side under the devilstick spin. When the handsticks reach the center point release the handsticks. They should have enough momentum to cross to the opposite sides. After you release the handsticks then you will catch the handsticks in the opposite hands. The right hand will catch the handstick that was passed under the devilstick, and the left hand will catch the one passed over the top. The devilstick can then be caught with the left handstick and back into an Idle. During this trick the devilstick will only do a half flip.

The second variation is also during a half flip with the devilstick. During the flip pull the handsticks out of the plane of the devilstick. Then toss the handsticks in the air to the opposite hands. One handstick will need to go above the other to avoid a collision. Catch the handsticks and go back into Idling.

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Another trick to try double handsticking on is the [Stop & Go](#). There many tricks you can try this on which adds a little bit different flavor to the trick.

## Juggling

Difficulty: 

In order to do this trick it is handy to know how to juggle clubs. Here is a couple of variations on going from devilsticking to juggling and back to devilsticking.

The first variation is to go from an idle position.

When the right handstick hits the devilstick try to keep it horizontal and toss it about eye height in the air. Then toss the left handstick to the right and catch the devilstick with your left hand. You may have to reach out and snag (or claw) the devilstick with your left hand since it is not in a natural position for your left hand to catch. I try to keep the devilstick as horizontal as possible because it is easier for me to catch in this variation. Then it is only a matter to keep juggling the sticks. To go back into devilsticking you will need to give the devilstick a high, horizontal toss so you can go back into idling.

Variation:

I have found an easier way to get into the juggle is to give the devilstick a propeller toss to the left side with the right handstick. Then throw the left handstick under and to the right of the devilstick and go into a juggle. You can try to keep the devilstick in a plane horizontal to your body, so that at any time you can easily go back into devilsticking from the juggle.

Saw variation:

Another variation is to start from a [Reverse Saw](#) position. The devilstick is then spinning in a natural position for the hand to catch it. Also, when you go back to the reverse saw from juggling, the devilstick is spinning in the correct direction.

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## Chops

Difficulty: 

This trick comes from a club juggling trick of the same name. If you have never seen or heard of the club juggling trick before, I hope this trick makes sense.

The basics for this trick is to start hitting the devilstick back and forth doing half flips. Then after a right handstick hit, bring the right handstick over for a [backhand hit](#). After the right backhand, bring the left handstick over for a left backhand. Keep the devilstick going while doing right and left backhand hits. Then to get the chop look, all you need to do is to swing the handstick across and down for the backhand hits. The more exaggerated the swing of the handstick the better the "chop" looks.

## Dual Chops

Difficulty: 

This trick is a variation of the [Chops](#) trick. While doing the right and left backhand hits (the devilstick is doing half flips), keep the handsticks together. They are parallel and a few inches apart. This may look like you are hitting each backhand hit with both handsticks, so try to keep them far enough apart to prevent this. If you want to, you can hit the devilstick with both handsticks (check out [Double Handsticking](#)).

## Double Handsticking

Difficulty: 

This is just a little variation on other tricks. Rather than hitting the devilstick with just one handstick, hit it with both handsticks.

One such trick could be when you are [Single Sticking](#), with half flips. Try to hold both handsticks near each other and do each devilstick hit with both handsticks. This is very similar to the [Dual Chops](#) trick, however, you actually are catching and tossing the devilstick with both handsticks.

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## Propeller Tricks

### Propeller

Difficulty: 

The propeller is a trick where you spin the devilstick around a handstick in a vertical plane. Starting from an [Idle](#), when the devilstick leaves the left handstick let the right handstick come into contact with the devilstick a little below the center. Let the devilstick [rollover](#) the right handstick, and just before it falls off give it a little lift in the air. The devilstick will do a full rotation before catching it on the right handstick again. You are now in the position to let it roll over the handstick and give it another toss. Doing this continuously is the propeller.

Note:

There are four different ways of doing the propeller. Clockwise and counter-clockwise with both the right and left hands. I have the opinion it is easier to learn the propeller doing it clockwise for right handed people, and counter-clockwise for left handed people. My reasoning probably comes from my juggling background where the first thing taught is the cascade. In the cascade the hand motions are clockwise for the right hand and counter-clockwise for the left hand. So it just seems natural to me to do the propeller in the same way. Having said that, I think doing it in either direction is fine, and you should actually learn how to do the propeller in each hand, both directions.



Variations:

A couple variations to the propeller is doing a propeller with your arm under your leg, or behind your back. Then try to change between positions by tossing the devilstick in the air, switching arm position, and continue without stopping the propeller.

The picture is of a propeller spin behind the back. The left handstick is high in the air to get it out of the way (it also looks a lot cooler :).

### Two handstick propeller

Difficulty: 

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This is a nice version of the propeller which I first saw John Portman, one of the members in our [juggling club](#) do.

From an [Idle](#), do a clockwise propeller spin on the right handstick. After the first propeller spin bring the right handstick out of the propeller and bring the left handstick in for the next propeller spin. Be sure to wait long enough so that the left handstick is hitting the devilstick on the same side and location as the right handstick did. Otherwise this would look like the [Windmill](#) trick. Also the left handstick keeps the devilstick spinning in the same direction. After a single propeller spin with the left handstick bring the right handstick in for the next spin. Then just keep alternating handsticks for the propeller spins.

## Windmill

Difficulty: 

I came up with this trick from a combination of the propeller and the saw. I first called this trick "Walk the Dog" but I didn't really like the name and it wasn't too descriptive. I have renamed it "Windmill" because the three ball trick of the same name is very similar in feel to this trick. It may be a little more descriptive as well.

I will describe the trick doing it in a clockwise fashion. Start off by doing the [Idle](#). When the devilstick is tossed to the right handstick, hit the devilstick just under the centerline, like you were going to do a propeller. Bring the left handstick to the right, toward the center of your body. Now you want to have the right hand bring the devilstick up around the outside of the left handstick. Let the devilstick then roll over the left handstick. Once the devilstick leaves the right handstick, bring your right hand back to catch the devilstick when it rolls over the left handstick. You can then go right into the same trick.

This is similar to the saw, except the devilstick is in a plane parallel to your body, rather than perpendicular. Also, the handsticks are on the same side, so you need to take one out of the plane of the devilstick and bring it back around to the other side.

Once you get the hang of this trick try to keep your left handstick virtually still, keeping it in the center of your body. Then just use the right handstick to keep the devilstick going around the outside and rolling over the left handstick. Also, you will want to work on doing this trick both ways (CW and CCW).

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## DS Mess

Difficulty: 

These are variations to the [Mills Mess](#) trick. They are very similar in concept, I've just modified some of the handstick hits and crossing of arms.

### Under arm DS mess:

Rather than crossing your arms "over" for the [backhand hits](#), cross your arm "under" for the hit.

### Behind the back DS mess:

Rather than crossing your arms over for the [backhand hit](#), put your arm behind your back for each backhand hit.

### Under the leg DS mess:

Rather than crossing your arms over for the [backhand hit](#), put your arm under your leg for each backhand hit.

### Flourished DS mess:

When crossing your arms over for the [backhand hit](#), do a [baton flourish](#) or [thumb roll flourish](#) before each backhand hit.

### The Scramble:

I first came across this trick on [Seth Golub's devilstick page](#). It is Mills Mess but while doing a helicopter. You can check out [his description](#) if you'd like.

### The Barrage mess:

When I started showing this trick to people they said that it looked similar to the three ball trick Burke's Barrage. However, I have since come up with a trick below that better mimics Burke's Barrage moves, and have renamed this to the Barrage Mess.

When you start to cross one arm over another turn your handstick around so that the [backhand hit](#) will be done with the [back side of the handstick](#). So when the hit is done to reverse the direction of the devilstick, the hand is in the following position: knuckles will be up with the front side of the handstick pointing at you, and the back side of the handstick is doing the hit.

### Hint:

When you first start to work on this trick you will need to slow it down. Turning the handsticks around for the back side hits can get pretty fast and you will need to have control for stopping the devilstick and reversing the direction. It takes awhile to get used to hitting a devilstick in this position.

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## Stop & Go Rollover

Difficulty: 

This is a combination of a couple tricks that came together when doing the [Mills Mess](#).

From an [Idle](#) toss the devilstick from the right handstick to the left and let it start to [rollover](#) the left handstick. Bring the right handstick under the left arm. When the devilstick falls off of the left handstick stop it in a horizontal position, similar to the [Stop & Go](#) trick. Now bring the right handstick from under the left arm and hit the devilstick on the right side so that it will rollover the left handstick again. You can then keep repeating this trick.

## Mills Mess

Difficulty: 

This trick came from the three ball juggling trick of the same name. The idea behind mills mess (the three ball version) is to toss the three balls in the same direction, then reverse all three balls in the opposite direction. While this is being done your hands are crossing, uncrossing, and recrossing during the throws. If you have never seen this three ball trick you definitely need to grab a good three ball juggler to show it to you, it is a very nice looking trick. The devilstick version is similar, you will hit the devilstick three times so it will spin in one direction, then you will spin it in the opposite direction with three hits. Hopefully it will all make sense.

Start from an [Idle](#). After a left handstick hit, let the devilstick start rolling over the right handstick, as if you were going to do a propeller. As the devilstick is rolling over the right handstick, cross your left hand over your right. When the devilstick falls off the right handstick you should have your left handstick over your right arm to do a left handed [backhand hit](#). This will start the devilstick spinning in the opposite direction. Roll it over your right handstick again, the opposite way. Uncross your left arm and let the devilstick roll over the left handstick. As it is rolling over the left handstick cross your right arm over your left. When the devilstick has rolled over the left handstick do a [backhand hit](#) with the right handstick. Roll it back over the left handstick and at this point you have done one cycle of mills mess for the devilstick.

Here is a [picture](#) of me doing mills mess.

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## The Barrage

Difficulty: 

I used to call the trick [Barrage Mess](#) the Barrage, however, since coming up with this variation I thought it better mimicked the hand movements of the three ball trick Burke's Barrage.

The movements of the handsticks is very similar to [Mills Mess](#). Start out of an idle. After a right handstick hit let the devilstick roll over the left handstick (as you would in Mills Mess). Cross your right handstick over the left and do a right handed [backhand hit](#). From the right handed backhand hit, toss the devilstick to your right side and do one propeller rollover (it will rollover clock-wise (CW) on the right handstick. Cross your left handstick over your right handstick as it is doing the rollover. Then do a left handed back hand hit into a left handed CCW rollover. That's one full cycle of the trick.

This is more similar to the trick Burke's Barrage because your handstick hits are doing right backhand, right rollover, left backhand, left rollover. And the three ball trick is throwing right hand, right hand, left hand, left hand.

### Variation:

Rather than crossing your arms "over" for the [backhand hits](#), cross your arm "under" for the hit.

## Hurdles

Difficulty: 

I found this trick on [Seth Golub's page of devilstick tricks](#). The idea is to make the devilstick jump over a handstick (or other object or body part).

From an [Idle](#), catch the devilstick on the right handstick just below center after the toss from the left side. Start to bring the devilstick under the left handstick. You are going to sort of do a single propeller on the right handstick. Just as the left handstick passes over the right, give the devilstick a propeller flip in the clockwise direction over the left handstick. The devilstick will "hurdle" over the left handstick and will not touch it. The move is similar to the [Windmill](#), except that the devilstick does not roll over the one handstick.

### Variations:

Some of the things you can hurdle are the handsticks, your arm, or your leg. Also try to do consecutive hurdles (counting sheep as Seth says).

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One real nice variation of this trick is to do a [Baton Flourish](#) when doing a hurdle over an arm. The devilstick is spinning in one plane of rotation and the handstick is spinning in another plane.

## The Weave

Difficulty: 

This is another great trick that came out of a combination of moves from some different saw tricks. I came up with the name from the three ball trick. It has a very similar look and feel to the hand movements. You will need to hold the handsticks in the middle for this trick.



Starting from an [Idle](#), when the right handstick tosses the devilstick to the left side, let the devilstick rollover the left handstick. After the rollover, bring the right handstick across for another rollover on the right handstick (very similar to the [Windmill](#)). But, when you do the right handstick rollover, turn the handstick so the rollover is on the back side of the handstick. The front side of the handstick is pointing toward yourself.

The picture is at the point where the devilstick has just rolled over the left handstick. I have moved my right hand across and have the back side of the handstick ready for the rollover.



Then after the right, back handstick, rollover, stop the devilstick with the left handstick and reverse directions. Now reverse what we just did from the right side. After the left handstick toss you will do a rollover on the right handstick, a rollover on the left back side of the handstick, and then stop it and reverse directions with the right handstick. You are back at the beginning, just keep doing it solid both ways.

This picture I am about to do a rollover on the backside of the left handstick.

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## Various Helicopter Taps

Difficulty: 

Here are some various ways to do helicopter taps:

- Helicopter tap off knee
- Helicopter tap off foot
- Helicopter tap behind back
- Helicopter tap off the inside of elbow
- Handstick flip while tapping - Give the devilstick a tap so it will rotate at least one complete turn before the next tap. During this turn give the handstick a half flip and go back into tapping.
- Above the head tap - Give the devilstick a tap so that it will go above your head. Then look up at the devilstick and keep tapping it in this position.
- Above the head tap with a handstick flip - Well, all you need to do is combine the previous two taps and you have it! I saw this trick done by Steve Ragatz (I think it was him, I'll have to double check) on a tape of the 1990 Eastern Illinois Festival's public show. It was Steve Ragatz and I had a chance to see him do it live at our [juggling clubs](#) convention in March of 2000.
- Top tap, or double tap - (submitted by [Dave Johnston](#))  
Get into a pattern of repeated helicopter taps on the same handstick. Now, place your other handstick above the devil stick, rotated 90 degrees in the horizontal to the tapping handstick. Both handsticks are parallel to the ground, and viewed from above would form a cross. You will notice that, as you're tapping the devil stick every 180 degrees, it has rotated 90 degrees at the top of each toss. It is in the perfect position for a quick tap in the center with the top handstick. It's really just a gentle little tap for show, but it looks for all the world like your whacking the devil stick back and forth between the two wands.
- Over the back tap - While doing a tap with the right handstick bring the devilstick to your left side. Then bend over so that your upper body is parallel to the ground. Then throw the DS over your back with the right handstick and catch it on your right side, still bent over. Then you can either straighten out and continue the curl/tapping, or you can do it again. A kind of "Helicopter bend over hurdle trick." This can be done continuously. Thanks to Audun Herning for this variation.

## Single Stick Helicopter

Difficulty: 

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## Helicopter Tricks

### Helicopter

Difficulty: 

The helicopter is a trick where you get the devilstick into a flat spin using the handsticks. From an [Idle](#) position, when the devilstick is in contact with the right handstick, give it a little pull toward your body as you toss it to your left hand. Then when it is in contact with the left handstick give it a little push away from your body. This pulling and pushing will start causing the devilstick to get into a flat spin, the helicopter. It might also help to angle the right handstick up a little and the left one down a little. This will also cause the devilstick to roll a bit on the handsticks, which helps with the helicopter spin.

Be sure to work on doing the helicopter in the clockwise and counterclockwise spins.

### Helicopter Tap

Difficulty: 

The helicopter tap, also called a pancake hit or a bop (for those on the other side of the pond), is a way to hit the devilstick with one handstick out of a helicopter spin.

Get the devilstick in a [Helicopter](#) spin. Rather than doing a normal hit with a handstick, what you need to do is to hit the devilstick in the center. You can then keep hitting, or 'tapping', the devilstick with the same handstick in the center. The taps will be on every half turn of the devilstick. If the devilstick is spinning faster, then you can do a tap on a full turn of the devilstick.

Hint:

When doing the helicopter, the devilstick never actually gets into a totally flat spin. When you do consecutive helicopter taps it is easier if you can get the devilstick into a totally flat spin. To do this you will need to try to hit the devilstick a little off center on the first tap. Hit it on the side of the devilstick that is lower. This is also the side of the devilstick that is not hit while doing the helicopter. This will raise one side of the devilstick so it is totally flat.

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This is a way to keep the helicopter spin going with one handstick. It is very similar to the second variation of [Single Sticking](#) I described.

Get the devilstick into a [Helicopter](#) spin. After you hit the devilstick with the right handstick move the handstick over to the left side. You then hit the devilstick with the right handstick again, making sure to give the handstick the correct tilt and push to keep the helicopter spin going. Bringing the right handstick back to its original position for the next hit is a little harder (assuming you are doing a clockwise helicopter spin). This is because the lower end of the spinning devilstick can easily get in the way. So be sure to bring the handstick out of the pattern far enough so it will not run into the devilstick.

### Helicopter Above Head

Difficulty: 

Although I have never seen this done, or done it myself (yet!) one of the members of our [juggling club](#) said that he had seen someone doing a helicopter above his head at a juggling convention. I think before I start to practice this trick I will buy myself a catchers mask!

### Helicopter On Head

Difficulty: 

This trick was sent to me by [Bennett Deddens](#). Start with a [Helicopter Tap](#) where you are tapping the devilstick around head height. With the devilstick at it's peak, stick your head under it and "catch" it on your head while it is still spinning. Flexing your knees will help cushion the catch. Let it spin for as long as possible and then let it fall to the front of you where you can continue the helicopter or an idle. Bennett also called this trick "Inspector Gadget!"

### Hand Toss

Difficulty: 

This trick was sent to me by [Conrad Roberts](#).

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Start with a [Helicopter](#). Toss the devilstick in the air and get a hand free by passing one of the handsticks to the other hand. Then, as smoothly as possible, catch the devilstick, give it a [baton flourish](#), and throw it back up again. Hand the extra handstick back across to the empty hand and go back into a helicopter. It's possible to make this look completely seamless and it's quite simple to do once you've got the hang of the timing.

## Helicopter around neck

Difficulty: 

This trick is a way to pass the devilstick around your neck while doing the helicopter. I first saw one of the members, John Portman, in our [juggling club](#) do this trick.

Start by doing a helicopter. Lets say it is a clockwise spinning helicopter. When the devilstick lands on the left handstick start to raise the devilstick and bring it over to your right shoulder. If you get the devilstick up to your right shoulder you should be able to place it so that the devilstick will wrap around the back of your neck. Once the devilstick wraps around the neck you can catch it with your right handstick and continue to do the helicopter.

If you were doing a counterclockwise helicopter then you would need to use your right handstick and bring the devilstick up to the left side for the around the neck.

Variation:

Submitted by [Brian Black](#).

Start with a clockwise helicopter. As the devilstick lands on the right handstick, bring the devilstick right up to your neck, your right thumb will almost touch your right shoulder. The right hand stick then sort of pushes the devilstick around your neck. The stick wraps around, then rolls down the left arm, where it's tossed into the air. I like to give it a flip so that it goes right into a propeller on the right handstick.

What also makes the trick more interesting is to do a few helicopter taps before sending it around the neck.

Alternate:

When doing the helicopter around the neck, try to catch the devilstick between your chin and collarbone and then do a [Neck Roll](#) back to the other side.

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## Half Curl

Difficulty: 

A half curl is kind of mixing a [Baton Flourish](#) with a [Helicopter](#) spin.



When doing a helicopter spin, get the center of the devilstick to land on the right handstick. As the devilstick starts to spin keep it balanced on the handstick. You will want to keep the handstick and devilstick perpendicular with each other. You also need to keep the handstick as horizontal as possible to prevent the devilstick from rolling. Let the devilstick do one complete revolution as it is balanced on the handstick. The handstick will do a baton flourish with the devilstick balanced on it. You can then go back into a [Helicopter](#) or a [Helicopter Tap](#).

In the picture I am at the halfway point. I will keep the devilstick on the handstick as it continues the helicopter spin.

Variation:

Once you can do a half curl with each hand try passing the devilstick from one hand to the other after each half curl. It looks real nice, and if you can place the devilstick on the handstick a little off center then you can give the devilstick a little momentum to keep it spinning as it turns.

## Two-hand Curl

Difficulty: 

First of all, you have to have [Curls](#) down solid. Assuming a clockwise spin, and a right-handed curl, here's what you do:

Start your curl and as you raise your right handstick and devil stick, place the left hand stick in your mouth (or between your legs, or just drop it) freeing up your left hand. As the devil stick continues its curl beneath the right elbow, begin to reach for the tip of your right hand stick. Lightly grasp the tip and continue the normal curl motion with your right hand stick, only now you're holding onto both ends of the right hand stick. You can continue with another curl or two with both hands on each end of the handstick. The biggest challenge you'll face is keeping both arms out of the way of the spinning (curling?) devil stick. When you're ready, you release your left hand, grab the left hand stick, and either continue the regular curl or go into an idle.

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## Curl

Difficulty: 

First, this trick is similar to a move that is done without the devilstick. It might be easier to understand how the trick is going to work if I explain what is going to happen with the devilstick.

If you hold a full glass of wine in your palm, put the stem between your fingers so that you are holding the part of the glass that contains the wine in your palm. You can take the glass and bring it in between your arm and body and around behind you. Then keep turning your hand and start to bring the glass higher in the air, it will help to extend your arm as you keep turning the glass. So if you were doing it in your right hand you would be turning your hand in a CCW fashion. Eventually your hand will be at the level of your head, depends how flexible you are. Keep raising your hand and turning it in the same direction. You will soon be able to start bringing your arm back down as the glass comes back around to the front of you until the glass is in its original position. The key is that you should be able to turn the glass behind you, up and around the side of you, and back to the front in one fluid motion without spilling a drop. If that description makes sense then imagine having a devilstick do the same thing as it rests on a handstick.

If you do a helicopter in a CCW spin then you would do a full curl in your right hand the same way described above. It is not an easy trick and it takes alot of practice to keep the devilstick from spinning off of the handstick. You also want to have the devilstick spin at the same rate you are going to do the curl.

Hint:

Here is a way you can cheat a little when practicing. Have the devilstick rest against your hand that is holding the handstick as you do the curl.

Alternative:

If none of this makes any sense, and you really want to learn this trick, then it may be worthwhile to pick up [The Devilstick Book](#) by Todd Strong. His description of the trick may help.

Variation:

Once you can do a curl on each side you may want to try to switch sides after each curl. Do one with the right hand, then immediately put the devilstick on the left handstick and do one with the left hand. Not an easy trick, but it looks great. And to make it even flashier, you can do the pass behind your back. Jochen Schell did this in the 1995 IJA Championship competition.

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Thanks to Matt Hall for first showing me this trick (it looks really awesome) and submitting the write-up above.

## Switch-hand Curl

Difficulty: 

The start of this trick is the same as the [Two Hand Curl](#) trick. You have to free up your left hand at some point. At the point where you lightly grasp the tip of your right hand stick in the Two Hand Curl, you need to get a really good grip this time because you're going to release your right hand grip from the hand stick. As soon as you do, you begin a left-handed curl under the left elbow. The devil stick is always doing a clockwise curl, and you choose the hand with which to do it. To switch back to a right-hand curl, you grasp the end of the handstick just as the left-hand curl is descending back towards the under the elbow position.

These two tricks (Two Hand Curl and Switch-hand Curl) are closely related and can be mixed together quite nicely. I usually try to do one regular curl, then a two-hand curl, (and as long as I've already got the other handstick in my mouth!), then I move to a switch-hand curl, after which I retrieve the other handstick and go for a behind the back curl. It's a long sequence and you need to keep the flow going nicely. Feels great when you pull it off in front of a large group of people.

Thanks again to Matt Hall for also showing me this trick and submitting the write-up.

## Seth's Mess (The Scramble)

Difficulty: 

I first came across this trick on [Seth Golub's devilstick page](#). It is [Mills Mess](#) but while doing a helicopter. You can check out [his description](#) if you'd like. There is now an animated GIF and an mpeg of Seth doing this trick. Very nice.

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## Saw Tricks

### Saw

Difficulty: 

This trick is similar to a [Propeller](#). But the plane the devilstick spins in is perpendicular to your body. Also you will use both handsticks to spin the devilstick.



A common starting position is to rest one side of the devilstick on a handstick, and have the opposite end of the devilstick against your body. With it perpendicular to your body you will want to give the devilstick a hit with the right handstick underneath and below the center. The devilstick will roll off the handstick, spinning in a forward direction. Then place the left handstick under the devilstick where you will hit it in the same position as you did the right one. Keep bringing the handsticks around and under for the hits. The devilstick should just seem to roll over the handsticks for each hit. The closer the handstick hits are to the center of the devilstick, the slower the devilstick will spin.

Once you get the hang of doing the saw you can start it many different ways (rather than stopping and leaning it against you). The easiest method is to turn your body 90 degrees while idling and then let the devilstick roll over the handstick that is closest to the "audience". While it is rolling over the handstick turn back forward and start the saw. You can eventually do this without actually having to turn your whole body (just turn your upper body without moving your feet).

Be sure to practice forward and reverse saw spins. The forward spinning saw is the direction the devilstick is spinning, which if it was a wheel on the ground, would roll forward and away from yourself.

Variation:



One variation of the saw that is good to learn (for some of the tricks described below) is to do a saw with your knuckles down. Hold the handsticks in the middle. You should have the same amount of handstick sticking out on both sides. Then turn your hands so that the knuckles are toward the ground, you use the [back side of the handstick](#). Now work on doing the saw forward and reverse in this position.

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[the handstick](#). And all of the rollovers with the knuckles down will be on the [backside of the handstick](#).

The devilstick will roll over the right handstick (knuckles up), then roll over the left handstick (knuckles up). While the devilstick is rolling over the left handstick, turn your right handstick so that the next hit with it will be knuckles down. The devilstick will roll over the right handstick (knuckles down), then roll over the left handstick (knuckles up). Turn the right handstick back over so the next hit will be knuckles up. The devilstick rolls over the right handstick (knuckles up), then roll it over the left handstick knuckles DOWN. The next hit will be right handstick knuckles up, this is back to the beginning of the pattern. If you keep this pattern going continuously it looks real nice. I also have a little notation for the pattern below.

All of the above can be described with the following notation:  
LKU - left knuckles up



LKD - left knuckles down



RKU - right knuckles up



RKD - right knuckles down



Here is the pattern:  
RKU, LKU, RKD, LKU, RKU, LKD, (back to beginning of pattern)

### Turnover Saw

Difficulty: 

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### One Handed Saw

Difficulty: 

This is the exact same thing as a [propeller](#), except that the devilstick is in a plane perpendicular with your body. You can do it with either handstick.

Variations:

When doing the one handed saw, do one rotation on the front side of the handstick and the next rotation on the back side of the handstick. When rolling over the back side of the handstick try doing it with knuckles down and knuckles up. This variation submitted by [Masaki Nishikawa](#).

### One Handstick Saw

Difficulty: 

This is a variation of the saw where you only use one handstick, and both hands are holding the handstick on either end. Using only one handstick for this trick is similar to the propeller in the saw position (very much like the One Handed Saw).

You can alternatively hold both handsticks together and do this trick as well.

### Egyptian Buzzsaw

Difficulty: 

I came up with the name of this trick because of the way the hand movements are while doing the saw. (Like in the old video by the Bangels, "Walk Like an Egyptian." I know, I am dating myself.)

This trick combines the [saw](#) with the [variation](#) on the saw. So you will need to be able to do the saw in both positions (knuckles up and knuckles down). After you know how to do both, it is a matter of mixing them in a certain pattern while doing the saw. I will go through the hand positions for each hit of the handsticks.

Start in the saw position, holding the handsticks in the middle, both handstick with knuckles up. All of the rollovers with the hand knuckles up will be made on the [front of](#)

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This is just a slight variation of the [Egyptian Buzzsaw](#). A bit quicker, and looks real nice.

You will do the same moves as the Egyptian Buzzsaw, but in a different order. After every handstick [rollover](#), you will "turn over" the handstick to do the next rollover on the opposite side of the handstick.

Here is the trick in the notation described in the [Egyptian Buzzsaw](#) trick:  
RKU, LKU, RND, LKD, (back to beginning of pattern)

### Butterfly

Difficulty: 

This trick is a little mixing of the [Egyptian Buzzsaw](#) with the [Figure 8 Saw](#). Be sure to understand the [front side of handstick](#) and [back side of handstick](#) terminology as you read this trick.

From the saw, holding handsticks in the middle, as the devilstick is rolling over the right handstick, turn your left handstick over so it is knuckles down. Then roll the devilstick over the back side of the left handstick. Roll over the front side of the right handstick again. Now roll the devilstick over the front side of the left handstick, left hand is still in knuckles down position. It should be much easier to get the devilstick around to the outside of the handstick with knuckles down, unlike the [Figure 8 Saw](#), where the knuckles are up. After this left front side rollover, let it roll over the front side of the right handstick. Then turn your left handstick back over, knuckles up, for the next rollover on the front side. You are now back in the standard saw position. Now go into the same trick on your right side. Right back side handstick rollover knuckles down, left front side knuckles up, right front side knuckles down, left front side knuckles up, right front side knuckles up.

The above can be described with the following notation:

LKUF - left knuckles up front side of handstick  
LKUB - left knuckles up back side of handstick  
LKDF - left knuckles down front side of handstick  
LKDB - left knuckles down back side of handstick  
RKUF - right knuckles up front side of handstick  
RKUB - right knuckles up back side of handstick  
RKDF - right knuckles down front side of handstick  
RKDB - right knuckles down back side of handstick

Here is the pattern:  
RKUF, LKDB, RKUF, LKDF, RKUF, LKUF, RKDB, LKUF, RKDF, LKUF, (back to beginning of pattern)

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Variation:  
The quick butterfly.

This is very similar to the butterfly so I will only describe it with the notation:  
RKUF, LKDF, RKDB, LKUF, RKDF, LKDB, (back to beginning of pattern)

Note:  
Does this notation help at all? I am trying to give a clearer picture of the hand and stick positions, but I'm not sure how much this is helping. Let me know through [email](#) what you think.

## Crossover

Difficulty: 

Can the [Butterfly](#) or [Quick Butterfly](#) get any quicker? Yes. This is also somewhat similar to the [Figure 8 Saw](#), except that the back side rollovers are front side rollovers done with the handsticks knuckles down.

When the devilstick is rolling over the right handstick, cross your left handstick to the other side of the devilstick (same side as right handstick), and turn the left hand knuckles down. Then do a rollover on the front side of the left handstick. Next do a rollover on the front side of the right handstick, and bring the left handstick back to the left side. Do a normal rollover on the front side of the left handstick and bring the right handstick to the left side of the devilstick. Roll the devilstick over the front side of the right handstick (knuckles down). Rollover on the left handstick and bring the right handstick back to the normal position.

In the same notation as the [Butterfly](#):  
RKUF, LKDF, RKUF, LKUF, RKDF, LKUF, (back to beginning of pattern)

## Band Saw

Difficulty: 

This is a combination of the [Baton Flourish](#) and the [Saw](#). (You won't need to think too hard to realize how I got the name ;-)

Start out doing the saw, holding the handsticks in the middle. When the devilstick rolls onto the right handstick take the left handstick out of the saw. Now you need to do one

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complete flip of the devilstick with only the right handstick. This is the exact same thing as a [Propeller](#), except that the devilstick is in a plane perpendicular with your body (or alternately a [One Handed Saw](#)). While the right handstick is flipping the devilstick, do a [Baton Flourish](#) with the left handstick. Then insert the left handstick back into the saw.

Variations:  
In this variation you don't pull the handstick out of the plane of rotation of the devilstick to do the flourish. But you flourish the handstick through the spinning devilstick, kind of like a gear.

Another, quicker variation, is to do a normal saw with baton flourishes. When the devilstick rolls off of the right handstick onto the left handstick, give the right handstick a quick baton flourish. The slower you can do the saw, the easier it will be to do a full baton flourish. Also, the flatter and more horizontal you can keep the handsticks as they flourish, the better this looks.

## Figure 8 Saw

Difficulty: 

This is another nice trick in the saw position. You will need to hold the handsticks in the middle. The object of the trick is to roll the devilstick over the [back side of the handstick](#) (knuckles up) on both sides.

From the saw position. When the devilstick rolls off of the left handstick and lands on the right handstick you will need to move your left arm toward the center of your body. As the devilstick rolls over the front side of the right handstick you want to then bring the devilstick around and under your arm, so it will roll over the back side of the left handstick. After it rolls over the back side of the left handstick bring the right handstick over to catch the devilstick on the front side of the handstick. Then, roll the devilstick over the front side of the left handstick. That's one half of the trick. You can then do the same move on the back side of the right handstick. The devilstick will be doing a "figure 8" around your arms.

Hint:  
Having the devilstick hit your arm as it spins is the biggest obstacle to overcome. To make thing a little easier, try to keep your arm straight and lean your body to the right when rolling the devilstick to the outside, onto the back side, of the left handstick, and vice versa.

Note:  
[Walter Park](#) showed me for some people it is much easier to do this trick if you are doing a reverse saw. When doing a reverse saw you do not have to try to get the devilstick to go

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underneath your arm. You just need to make sure that the devilstick is far enough on the outside of your arm so that it will not run into the top of your forearm.

## Over the Top Turn

Difficulty: 

This trick is a way to bring the devilstick over the top of your head and then turn around. You are going to have to hold the handsticks in the middle.

Start by doing a reverse saw. Raise the saw so it starts to come over your head. I will usually turn to the left, so the devilstick may be a little to the left of my head. When the devilstick is doing a rollover on my left handstick I will start to turn to my left. The next rollover is going to be on the right handstick, so turn your right hand so it is palm up and do a rollover on the [back side of the handstick](#). Rolling the devilstick over the back side of your right handstick will allow you to complete the turn to the left. After the devilstick does a rollover on the back side of the right handstick you can lower the devilstick for the left hand rollover and then go into a forward saw.

## Shoulder Saw Hurdle

Difficulty: 

This is one of my favorite tricks that I have come up with and one that I like about as much as my [Egyptian Buzzsaw](#). I first stumbled onto this trick when I was practicing the [Roll Over the Shoulder](#) trick.

The idea of this trick is simple, but the implementation will take a bit of practice. Start by doing the saw. When the devilstick rolls onto the right handstick, use the right handstick to bring the devilstick under your left arm. Once it is under your arm, you are going to toss it over your shoulder, back in front of you. You can then go right back into the saw.

In the picture I have just tossed the devilstick over my left shoulder and am about to catch it on my left handstick, where I will then go back into the saw.

Hint:  
When you first start practicing this trick it may be easier to get it over your shoulder if you do the saw to your side, almost underneath your arm.

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Start by doing the saw in a forward direction. When the devilstick is rolling over the right handstick, stop the devilstick with the left handstick once the devilstick end is at or above your chin. You will need to stop it before the devilstick is in the vertical position (the point where it rolls off the right handstick). At this point the devilstick is going to want to start spinning in the reverse direction. This is where you will need to place the end of the devilstick on your chin. If the devilstick does start to spin in the reverse direction, it should be slow enough to get your chin underneath it. Once it's trapped on your chin, raise the devilstick to a vertical position with your handsticks for balancing.

You can try to balance the devilstick on your chin from a reverse spinning saw. You will not have to stop the spinning devilstick as you had to in the above method. However, I find that the devilstick is always spinning too fast, and you just bludgeon your face with the devilstick.

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## Side Saw

Difficulty: 



The side saw is a method of doing the saw where the plane of rotation of the devilstick is parallel to your body, rather than perpendicular. You will need to bring one arm over the spinning devilstick and turn your upper body a little. You can get into this trick easily from a [Propeller](#), [Windmill](#), [Idle](#), or any other similar trick. Be sure to do this trick both ways, right arm over and left arm over, and also spinning the devilstick in both directions. These will be needed for some of the tricks described below.

In the picture I am doing a left hand forward side saw (refer to naming convention below). It doesn't look much different than a normal saw, but the position gives you the ability to switch sides easily.

Naming convention:

In order to distinguish the different side saws, here is how I define them. If the left arm is over the devilstick, spinning in a forward rotation (clockwise if you are looking at the devilstick), I call this a left hand forward side saw. There is also the left hand reverse side saw if you spin the devilstick in the reverse direction. Then you have the same tricks done with the right hand.

## Side to Side Saw

Difficulty: 

The trick here is to go from a right side saw to a left side saw and vice versa. The trick will always be going from one of two ways. A forward saw on one side to a reverse saw on the other, or a reverse saw on one side to a forward saw on the other. I have found that it is easier to do the latter of the two. This has to do with it being easier to place the handsticks in the saw when the devilstick is spinning in the reverse to forward direction.

While doing a left hand reverse saw, start to bring the devilstick toward the center of your body. When the devilstick is rolling over the right handstick bring your left arm around to place the left handstick on the same side the right handstick is. Roll the devilstick over the left handstick and bring your right arm over the devilstick to be in the position to do a right hand forward side saw. The whole time the hands are changing position the devilstick is moving from one side to the other. Practice doing the side to side saw spinning the devilstick in both directions.

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## Circular Saw

Difficulty: 

Here is new and improved version of the [Side Saw Circle](#). It is pretty important to understand the terminology of the different [Side Saws](#), the [Side to Side Saw](#), and what I mean by [rollover](#) and [back/front sides of the handstick](#) when reading the description below.

Start by doing a left hand forward side saw, holding the handsticks in the middle. Do a side to side saw transfer into a right hand reverse side saw. Immediately after the switch, the devilstick should be doing a reverse rollover on the right handstick. At this point, raise your left hand up to about shoulder height and point the back side of the handstick away from you. The front end of the left handstick will be pointing toward you. Now from the reverse rollover on the right handstick, raise the devilstick and roll it up onto the back side of the left handstick. Let the devilstick rollover the back side of the left handstick and raise the right handstick so that the back side points away from you, like the left handstick. After the rollover on the left handstick, have the devilstick do a rollover on the back side of the right handstick (this is all about shoulder height). As you are passing the devilstick from the back side of the left handstick to the right handstick, the devilstick will be moving from your left side to your right side. Then from the rollover on the back side of the right handstick, bring the left handstick down for a rollover on the front side. You should now be back in the position of the left hand forward side saw.

## Albert toss

Difficulty: 



Yes, you too can do an albert toss with the devilstick. If you don't know what an albert throw is, then here is the description off of the [JIS](#): "Named after Albert Lucas, this trick is where you throw a club from front to back between the legs. Your feet should stay on the ground. Kit Summers came up with this name."

Hold the handsticks in the middle while doing the saw. Start to lower the devilstick as you do the saw and start to bend forward with legs spread apart. When the devilstick is doing a rollover on the right handstick start to bring the devilstick between your legs. You will then have to toss the devilstick under your left leg and as straight up, or to the front of you, as possible. All the while keeping

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Note:

Going from a reverse side saw (ie. left hand reverse), to doing a side to side saw transition to the forward side saw (ie. right hand forward) is much easier than going from the forward side saw, to side to side saw transition, to the reverse side saw. Be sure to practice both of these transitions, they are both used for some of the tricks described below.

## Side Saw Circle

Difficulty: 

It is best to know how to do all variations of the [Side to Side Saw](#) in order to do this trick. I heard this trick first described on the rec.juggling newsgroup. I guess one of the German jugglers had done this trick while at the Las Vegas IJA convention.

Start off doing a right hand reverse side saw. Start to raise the side saw until it is a little bit above your head (you should be looking up at the spinning devilstick). Start to bring it across your body and do a right hand reverse side saw to left hand forward side saw switch ([Side to Side Saw](#)). All this is done with it still at head height. After the switch, start to lower the devilstick to its normal side position. From there do a side to side saw so it goes back to the right hand reverse side saw. When going from the left hand forward side saw to the right hand reverse side saw you can bend over a little and lower the spinning devilstick as it crosses your body. The devilstick has done a complete circle around the front of you.

## Side Saw Mess

Difficulty: 

The side saw mess is a method of doing the [Side to Side Saw](#) with stopping and reversing the direction of the devilstick. Start out doing a left hand forward [Side Saw](#). After the devilstick has rolled over the left handstick, stop the devilstick spin with the right handstick and start a reverse spin with the devilstick (left hand reverse side saw). Roll it back over the left handstick, then the right handstick, and on the next left handstick hit do a [Side to Side Saw](#) transition. This should put you in the position of doing a right hand forward side saw. Now you just need to stop the forward spin with the left handstick, transition into a reverse spin, and do another [Side to Side Saw](#) transition.

The transitions from forward to reverse spins as you go from side to side is a nice effect. It looks like the devilstick is rolling from one side to the other.

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your feet on the ground. Once the devilstick is tossed between the legs turn your left hand knuckles down and reach your left handstick to your left side. Then do a rollover on the front side of the left handstick and start to bring the devilstick back to the center of your body. From here you can go back into the saw. This is similar to the [Shoulder Saw Hurdle](#), but you are going under a leg (sounds easy enough).

In the picture I am currently in the position where I am about to toss the devilstick up and as far to the front as possible. I will then point my left handstick, front side of the handstick, to the left of me. The devilstick will roll over it after it goes up and over my leg. Then I am back in the saw position in the front.

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## Static Tricks

### Static Style Tricks

Difficulty: 

This is a different style of devilstick tricks that I like to call 'static' tricks. This is because the devilstick is not tossed back and forth between the handsticks. Rather, for most of the moves, it is resting on both of the handsticks. Many of these tricks come from variations of moves with other juggling props, such as cigar boxes, or club swinging.

I may not have many tricks described here because I have not come up with a good nomenclature to describe some of them. But I will try listing the tricks which I do have good names and descriptions.

### Static Start Position

Difficulty: 

I first need to explain what I mean when I say a static start position. This is where the two handsticks are held horizontally and perpendicular to your body. The devilstick rests on top of the two handsticks, with the handsticks an equal distance apart from the center of the devilstick. There is nothing spectacular about this position, but it is the main starting point for many of the static tricks. This position is also a common starting position when learning how to devilstick.

### Static Flips

Difficulty: 

This is an easy enough trick that is going to be one of the building blocks of much better tricks. All you need to do is give the devilstick a half flip from a static position back to the same position. The flips can be in either the clockwise or counterclockwise directions. They can also be full, one and a half, etc. flips.

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- Roll the devilstick down the handsticks slightly, then toss it over your head with both handsticks (back into static start position).
- Give the devilstick a toss with one handstick and go into [Behind the Back](#).
- Let the devilstick drop off the handsticks, then kick it with your heel back over your head.

### Static Under Leg

Difficulty: 

This is going to be similar to a regular devilstick [Under the Leg](#) or [Pass Under the Leg](#) except that the devilstick is always kept in a static position.

From a static start position give the devilstick a little toss, or lift, in the air to the left. This is not a throw or toss like when you are normally devilsticking, keep the devilstick flat. This is just to give you a little time to do the trick. Now bring your right arm under your leg and catch the devilstick in the static position. When you do the toss (or lift) keep the left handstick always in contact with the devilstick.

You can then bring the devilstick under your leg to the inside so that the left arm is now under your leg. Give the devilstick another toss and bring your left hand around to catch the devilstick in the static start position.

### Static Around the Back

Difficulty: 

From a static behind the back, just lean back and bring the devilstick around behind your back to the other side. Bringing the devilstick from a static start position, around your back, to the start position again requires a lot of stretching and leaning. Be sure to keep the devilstick flat when doing this. Also make sure the devilstick is far enough to the side when going around the back, it tends to catch your side.

### Static Behind Back

Difficulty: 

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## Static Handstick Flips

Difficulty: 

This is a way to combine the static flip with a handstick flip.

Lets say that you are going to do a static flip such that the devilstick is going to do a half flip in a counterclockwise fashion. From the static start position the right handstick gives the devilstick a hard enough push to do a half flip back to the static start position. While the right handstick is pushing up on the devilstick, continue the upward motion at the end of the handstick and give the handstick a half flip. Try to get the timing of both the devilstick flip and the handstick flip such that you catch the handstick just as you catch the devilstick.

You can also do a reverse flip of the handstick as well. For this one lets do a static half flip of the devilstick in the clockwise direction. When the left handstick is pushing up on the devilstick for the half flip, the opposite end of the devilstick is wanting to push down on the right handstick. Use this force to start the reverse flip of the right handstick when the devilstick does its flip. Again, try to get the timing such that you catch the right handstick and devilstick at the same time.

Be sure to work on these flips in both hands, both directions.

## Static Stops

Difficulty: 

There are many other possible starting or stopping static positions. Here are some other positions to try to start or stop during different static tricks.

- On your leg - Have one end of the devilstick rest on a handstick while the other one rests on your leg.
- On your foot - As above, but rest one end on your foot.
- On your neck - Lean over and have one end of the devilstick end resting on the back of your neck.
- Crossed arm - This is the standard static position except that your arms are crossed. This is the starting position for quite a few good tricks like the [Static Mess](#).
- Behind your back - In this position the handsticks are pointing behind you and the devilstick is resting on them.  
Here are a few ways to get out of this position:

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Very similar to the [Static Under the Leg](#) above except bring your arm behind your back and catch the devilstick in the static position.

## Trapeze

Difficulty: 

Start from the [Static Start](#) position. Take the right handstick out from under the devilstick and let the devilstick start to drop. As the devilstick drops use the right handstick to pinch the devilstick between the left and right handsticks (your left handstick always stays in contact with the devilstick). The devilstick will then swing like a pendulum from the right side to the left. When it reaches the peak on the left side take your left handstick and catch the devilstick back into the [Static Start](#) position. You can also do this the opposite way.

Hint: It might make it easier to catch with the left handstick if while the devilstick is pinched between the handsticks to move the top of the devilstick to the right as the bottom pendulums to the left. This might also give it more swing. Try to get the devilstick to swing up to a horizontal position right before the catch with the left handstick.

## Outside Trapeze

Difficulty: 

Start from the [Static Start](#) position. Take the left handstick out from under the devilstick and let the devilstick start to drop. As the devilstick drops raise the right handstick and move it to the left in order to have the devilstick rotate under and around the outside of the right handstick. Once it does a full rotation catch it with the left handstick back into the [Static Start](#) position. You can also do this with the left handstick.

## Static Juggling

Difficulty: 

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Here you are going to combine the [Static Flip](#) and both handstick flips at the same time.

Start by doing a static flip in the counterclockwise direction. Then at the same time do a right handstick flip and a left handstick reverse flip. If you can get the timing such that all three stick go in motion and then are caught at the same time it looks real nice. Do this trick in one direction and immediately do it in the opposite direction, it looks like you are "juggling."

It is very hard to see what is going on in the picture. But hey, the picture looks pretty cool.

## Static Mess

Difficulty: 

This is kind of an interesting look-alike to [Mills Mess](#) from a static position.

Start in the static start position, arms crossed. Lets say that your right arm is over your left. You are going to uncross your arms and then recross them so that your left arm is over your right arm. The devilstick will do a complete flip as the arms are uncrossed and crossed. The key is to keep a constant force on the devilstick with the handsticks as you do the uncross and crossing of the arms. The devilstick is now resting on the handsticks with your arms crossed, left over right. Then you just need to get the trick going back and forth in each position and it has a very mills messish look.

Variation:

Another nice variation of this is to raise the devilstick over your head as you uncross your arms. When they are fully uncrossed the devilstick should be directly over your head.

## Static Rail

Difficulty: 

Here is one of those tricks that I kind of forgot about until [John Hamilton](#) emailed me this trick.

From the static start position hold your arms straight out in front of you so there is no bend in your elbows. Start to raise your arms up to about a 45 degree angle. The

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## Miscellaneous Tricks

### Arm Traps

Difficulty: 

I first saw an arm trap done when I was learning to do the devilstick. One of our juggling club members showed me how to do them. I was then reintroduced to them in the book [Mastering Devilstick \(part one\)](#) by Chris Dore.

Start by doing an [Idle](#). Be sure that you are not holding the handsticks at the very end, so there is a little of the handstick sticking out the back side of your hand. When the devilstick is tossed from the left handstick, turn your right arm so that the right handstick is horizontal and parallel with your body. Your palm is facing up in this position. Catch the devilstick on your right wrist and then trap it with the back end of the devilstick. You let the devilstick swing underneath your arm and then flip it over it. When flipping it over your arm be sure to flip it high enough and far enough to the left to hit it with your left handstick. The trick is not very difficult, but to get it looking smooth you will need to work on the release.

Variation:

I saw a nice variation on this trick by a guy named John from New York when I was at the '96 Madfest convention. Rather than catching the devilstick on your wrist and trapping it, you have the devilstick roll over your arm and then trap it. So if you were going to do a right handstick arm trap, you would hit the devilstick with the left handstick and have the center of the devilstick land on your right forearm, closer to your wrist. The devilstick should then roll over your forearm. Trap the end of the devilstick that rolls around your forearm. If your arm is angled down, rather than parallel with the ground, the devilstick will roll down your arm a bit so that your wrist can trap the devilstick.

I saw yet another variation to this trick at the '96 Illini Juggling and Unicycle club's convention. Rather than tossing the devilstick around the outside of the arm after the arm trap, have it roll over the outside of your forearm. This is similar to the variation above, but the arm roll is done after the trap rather than before it.

Here is another variation of the arm trap that I learned at the '96 IJA Festival in Rapids City. It is similar to the arm trap where the devilstick rolls over the arm before the trap. In that trap your palm is most likely facing down to trap the devilstick after the roll over your arm. In this variation the devilstick does not roll over the arm but you trap it in the same position. I saw Rob Peck get into this by doing a normal arm trap, let's say with the right hand. He then he gives the devilstick a small half flip in the counterclockwise direction and catches it in this "backside" arm trap position. Greg Kennedy showed me this trap at the fest as well.

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devilstick will start to roll down the "rail" formed by your handsticks and arms. Duck your head and let it start to roll behind you. When it reaches the back of your neck drop your arms and bring them behind you, then point the handsticks in back of you. The devilstick will then continue to roll down your back and back of your arms until you stop it with the handsticks behind you. This is now in the [static stop](#) position behind your back.

There are a few ways to get out of this position, check out the [Static Stop](#) behind your back section.

## Overhead Handstick Flip

Difficulty: 

Here is a trick I had seen at an IJA fest and [Conrad Roberts](#) also emailed me this trick.

Get the devilstick in a static stop directly above your head, so that the handsticks are pointing behind you, tilted up slightly so the devilstick is resting against your hands. Now toss both handsticks in a forward half-spin over the devilstick, and drop your hands to catch them (around chest height). As you catch the handsticks the devilstick should drop onto your arms and you can then roll it forwards onto the handsticks ala [Static Rail](#).

The best way to get into this position is to start doing a [Static Mess](#) and as you uncross your arms raise the devilstick above your head. Stop when it is directly above your head and then you can do the handstick flips.

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## Flourishes

Difficulty: 

You can do all of the [Handstick Flourishes](#) with the devilstick as well. There may not be any tricks that use one of these but you may eventually come up with a move to incorporate a nice devilstick flourish. For instance, when starting and stopping a routine you could use a devilstick flourish. Don't let the paradigm that you have to always use the handsticks for hitting the devilstick stop you from creating some nice moves and flourishes while holding the devilstick.

## Kick up

Difficulty: 

In this trick you kick the devilstick up in the air with your foot. This is great to work on when you are dropping the devilstick alot from trying other tricks. I first learned this trick while club juggling, I had lots of drops, so I had lots of practice at it.

What you do here is place the devilstick across your foot so that one end of the devilstick is on the ground, to the outside of the foot, pointing forward a little. The other end is resting on your foot. It might be easier to hold it in this position if you lift your toes in the air while keeping your heel on the ground. You then point your toes up and lift your foot to the outside as you bend your knee. As your foot is raised the devilstick gets trapped between your foot and the inside of your leg, below the calf. If you raise your leg quick enough the devilstick will then flip in the air and you can go into idling.

## Neck Rolls

Difficulty: 

I first started practicing this move with the devilstick when I saw a baton twirler do this trick. It is a move where you get the devilstick to roll around the back of your neck without using the handsticks.

Start by taking one end of the devilstick and pinching it between your chin and shoulder, or collarbone. The other end sticks up over your back, pointing up and to the side. What you need to do is swing your shoulder back and let go of the devilstick with your chin.

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Let the devilstick roll around the back of your neck. When the devilstick is rolling around the back of your neck start to bring your other shoulder back and turn to face that shoulder. Now you want to catch the devilstick between your chin and collarbone, just like you were holding it before the roll. Once you can do this you can have the devilstick roll from one side to the other and back.

#### Hint:

To get into this position without placing the devilstick there you can try to catch the devilstick out of a [Helicopter Around Neck](#).

## Over the shoulder roll

Difficulty: 

From an idle, give the devilstick an extra half flip from your right handstick. The previously bottom end will come over the top. As it flips to your left side grab it with your right hand. Smoothly transition the spin into a swing under your upper right arm. Roll it off your arm (counterclockwise) back into an idle.

Or, instead of rolling over your arm, step forward with your right foot, turn to the left, and roll it over your shoulder. Thanks to Seth Golub for submitting this trick.

## Over the shoulder start

Difficulty: 

This trick is very similar to the [Over the Shoulder Roll](#). However, you start by holding one end of the devilstick in your hand. Swing the devilstick under your shoulder, roll it over the top and start into a saw. This is a smooth natural start for picking up a fallen devilstick that's pointing away from you. Thanks to Seth Golub for this trick.

## Quickstart

Difficulty: 

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## Two Devilstick Tricks

### Double Propeller

Difficulty: 

This is probably one of the first things to learn when starting with two devilsticks. Basically the description is you do a [Propeller](#) with each hand at the same time.

#### Starting:

Here are a few different ways of starting this trick.

The first is to place one end of the devilstick on the ground and lean it against your handstick. Do this with each devilstick. To start you drop the handsticks and let the devilsticks start falling. Then use the handsticks to hit the devilstick near the center, to start the propeller, and lift them off the ground.

The second is to hold a devilstick in each hand. You will still be holding the handsticks, and the devilstick will be resting on top of the handsticks. Hold the devilsticks near the center tape in a horizontal position. Give the devilsticks a gentle toss in the air and then hit each devilstick with the handsticks to start the propeller.

The next method is to place both devilsticks on the ground next to each other, end to end. Stand one side of the devilsticks near the middle where the ends meet. Rest a handstick on top each of the devilsticks and pull them towards you. As they start to roll towards you, put the handsticks under the rolling devilstick and lift up in the air and start the propellers.

#### The propeller spins:

There are four different ways to spin the propellers.

- Right clockwise, left counter-clockwise
- Left clockwise, right counter-clockwise
- Both clockwise
- Both counter-clockwise

I suggest to start out with right clockwise and left counter-clockwise. For my reasoning behind this, you can read my description of the [Propeller](#).

Here is an [animated GIF of Henning Wiescher](#) doing two devilstick propellers. He does them left clockwise, right counter-clockwise.

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I first learned this trick from Jeff Daymont at a Spring Fling Festival back in '87 (and I still don't have this trick down yet). The point of this trick is to toss all three sticks (devilstick and both handsticks) into the air and then catch the handsticks and go into idling.

To start out, place a handstick on either side of the devilstick. The handsticks are parallel with the devilstick. Then on one end of the devilstick line up the ends of the handsticks with the end of the devilstick. Hold the three sticks in one hand, now toss all three sticks in the air. I toss the sticks so that they spin in a plane parallel with your body. You will then need to "claw" the handsticks out of the air as they separate and fall. Then start idling the devilstick before it hits the ground. The tough part is to get the handsticks to separate enough so that you can grab them out of the air easily. Try tilting your wrist at different angles as you toss the sticks in the air to get the handstick separation.

## Single Handstick Idles

Difficulty: 

This is another common way to keep two devilsticks going. What you are doing is [Single Sticking](#) the devilstick, with quarter flips (similar to the [Idle](#)), in each hand. I think this is a bit harder than the [Double Propeller](#). Mainly because there is a lot more hand movement with the handsticks when controlling the Single Handstick Idles versus the Propellers.

## Dual Idle

Difficulty: 

This is another very nice looking method to keep two devilsticks going. What you need to do is an [Idle](#) with both devilsticks. As you toss one devilstick from the left handstick to the right, you will also be tossing one from the right handstick to the left. When you do this you will need to keep each devilstick in its own plane of motion. Basically keep one devilstick in front of the other. This trick requires excellent control of the devilstick when idling because each hit needs to be at the same time. If they start to get out of sync they will be extremely difficult to control.

## Double Helicopter

Difficulty: 

This method of manipulating two devilsticks is more popular with people who use flowersticks. I have yet to see someone who primarily uses tapered devilsticks do very much with Double Helicopters. However, I have seen it done with tapered sticks, it just may be a bit harder.

There are a couple of methods for doing the Double Helicopter. The first would be to try and do [Single Stick Helicopters](#) with each devilstick. I have yet to see that done. However, the second and more popular method of doing Double Helicopters is to have the devilsticks continually resting on the handsticks as you would during a [Curl](#) or a [Half Curl](#).

The problem with that particular method is that the handsticks start to crawl down the devilstick as you do the Half Curls. So to "fix" that problem you need to rotate, or turn,

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the handstick in your hand as you do the Half Curls. It's the same thing you have to do if you are spinning a lasso. This is probably one reason it is not as popular doing it with tapered devilsticks. It crawls down the devilstick much quicker since it is usually thicker in the center than flowersticks.

### Center Handstick Hit

Difficulty: 

This trick can be done out of [Double Propellers](#) or from [Single Handstick Idles](#). The object of this trick is to use one handstick to toss both devilsticks at the same time. The devilsticks will be tossed in opposite directions.

From the Double Propeller or Single Stick Idles you will need to get the devilsticks in sync so that you can stop devilstick in the left hand as if it was going to toss it to the right side. And the right hand will need to stop the devilstick as if it was going to toss it to the left. Once these are stopped at the same time, you will toss them so the devilsticks will do a quarter flip toward each other. The top half of each devilstick should overlap one another around the center of your body. When they do this you will take one of the handsticks (either left or right) and catch both devilsticks (where they are overlapping) on this handstick, then toss the devilsticks back out to the side. Then go back into Propellers, Single Sticking, etc. This is similar to the Single Stick Idles, except that there is the one hit in the center where only one handstick is used.

### Double Roll Over Leg

Difficulty: 

This trick can be done out of [Double Propellers](#) or from [Single Handstick Idles](#). The object of this trick is to do a [Leg Roll Over](#) with each devilstick at the same time (on the same leg).

From the Double Propeller or Single Stick Idles you will need to get the devilsticks in sync so that you can stop devilstick in the left hand as if it was going to toss it to the right side. And the right hand will need to stop the devilstick as if it was going to toss it to the left. Once these are stopped raise one of your legs and toss each devilstick onto your leg so they each do a Leg Roll Over. After the Leg Roll Overs go back into Propellers or Single Sticking the devilsticks.