

If you have a question about a particular move you may have seen or heard about, and would like to see it explained here, please let us know. Also, if you have a favorite manipulation of any prop that you would like to share, we would love to include it in a future “Teach-In.” Please contact us at: Teach-In, JUGGLE Magazine, 3315 E. Russell Rd. #A4-203, Las Vegas, NV 89120, or email to [Teach-In@jugglemagazine.com](mailto:Teach-In@jugglemagazine.com).

## Jeton's Jab

Okay, it's time for a confession. There was a secret agenda for describing the Three-Ball Explosion in the Summer 2009 “Teach-In.” While I hope the descriptions in that “Teach-In” are worthwhile for some jugglers, what I really wanted to describe was a move I saw Jeton perform over ten years ago. Since that time, I have never seen anyone else perform this move. Gentleman juggler that he is, Jeton kindly gave me permission to write up a description. Recently I met up with Jeton to create the supporting illustrations and am happy to finally present the move here.

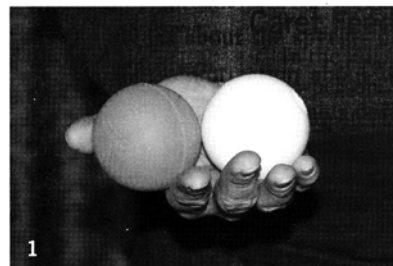
The key to Jeton's Jab is a karate chop delivered simultaneously to two balls. Done properly, this single, downward chop on two balls with one hand imparts a different direction of English to each ball. “English” is the term for putting so much spin on a ball that the trajectory or rebound of the ball is affected. After the karate chop with the left hand, the balls fly down and away from each other and then, surprisingly, bounce back up towards each other after rebounding off of the floor.

Because of the sudden, karate-chop move, I came up with the name “Jeton's Jab” for this move. Jeton offered his approval.

### Pre-Exercise for Jeton's Jab

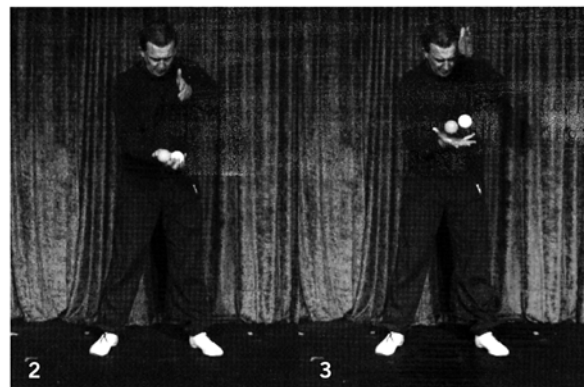
The key to Jeton's Jab is the simultaneous karate chop on two balls with the left hand. Just before the left-hand chop your right hand needs to release the two balls with a Multiplex toss so the two balls fly close enough together that the left hand can chop the top, inside quarter of each ball. The left hand hits the gray ball — which is on the right as you look at the two balls — downward and to the right. At the same time the left hand hits the white ball — the ball on the left side of the pair — downward and to the left.

The sharp strike with the left hand also imparts English to each ball. The gray ball on the right gets some counterclockwise spin, while the white ball on the left receives clockwise spin. The English on each ball means that they should bounce back in the direction from which they came. In other words, after each ball looks like it should bounce away from the juggler, they both, surprisingly, bounce right back into the pattern.



Begin with just the white ball and the gray ball in your right hand. The white ball is on the left side of your right hand, near the little finger; the gray ball is on the right side, near the thumb [Photo 1].

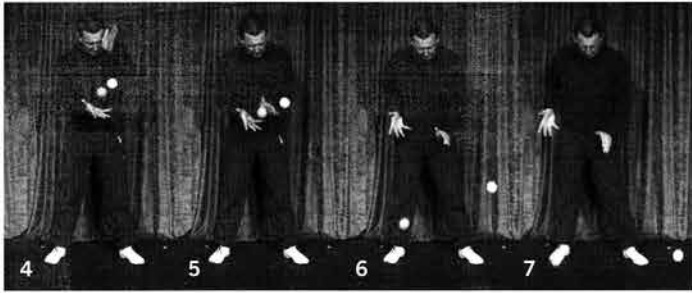
Scoop your right hand just to the left of your body and simultaneously release the two balls with a vertical Split-Multiplex Toss. Throw the balls so they rise at the same time, with just a small, horizontal gap between them [Photos 2-3].



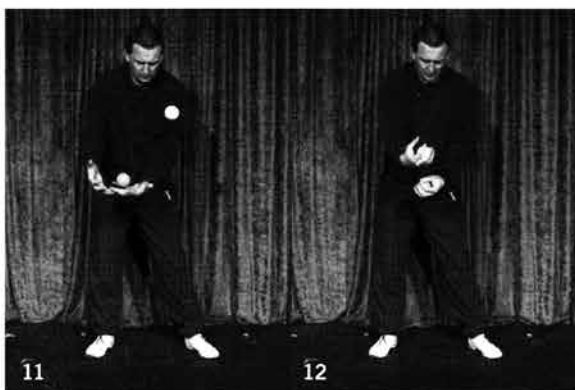
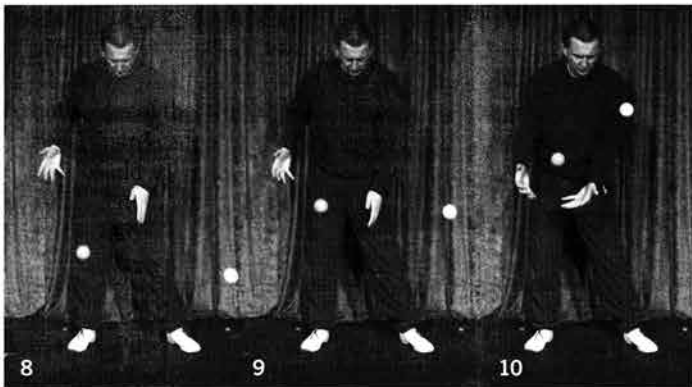
Place your left hand directly above the space between the two balls. Hold your left hand like you are going to split a wooden board with a karate chop. The fingers of the left hand should be straight, with the little finger nearest the ground and the thumb nearest the sky [Photo 4].

Imagine both balls have clock faces. You want to hit the gray ball with the bottom-right side of your left hand at about the ten or eleven o'clock position on the imaginary clock face of the gray ball. At the same time the bottom-left side of your left hand strikes the white ball at about the one or two o'clock position [Photo 5].

The single blow should send both of the balls flying towards the ground and away from each other as the audience views the move. The chop with your left hand also provides English to each ball. Again, as you look at the two balls the gray ball will have counterclockwise English while the white ball has clockwise English [Photos 6-7].



After the balls bounce off of the floor they should both bounce back towards your left hand. Catch the gray ball in your left hand. Let the white ball fly across your body to the right hand. Catch the white ball in your right hand [Photos 8-12].



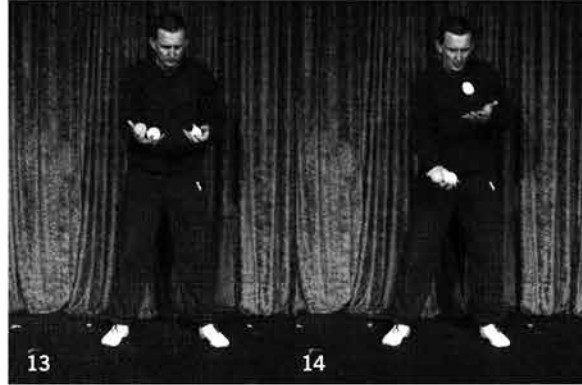
The key to the move is giving enough English to each ball so they both bounce back in the direction from which they hit the floor. Practice until both of the balls bounce back across your body and you can make two smooth catches.

### Jeton's Jab

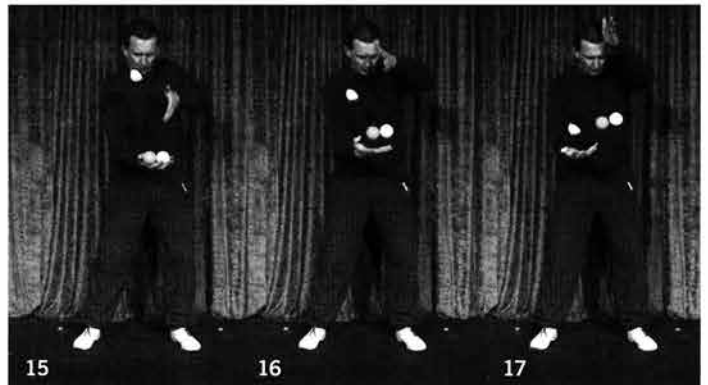
If you have mastered the two-ball pre-exercise performing the full Jeton's Jab will be easy.

Begin with the white ball and the gray ball in your right hand. The right hand holds these two balls in the same manner as for the pre-exercise; the gray ball is on the right, the white ball is on the left. The striped ball is in your left hand [Photo 13].

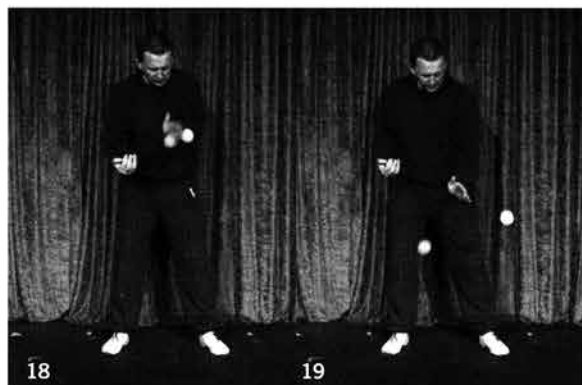
Cascade the striped ball from your left hand to your right hand [Photo 14].



Multiplex the white ball and the gray ball from your right hand, just as you did in the pre-exercise. Catch the striped ball in your right hand [Photos 15-17].

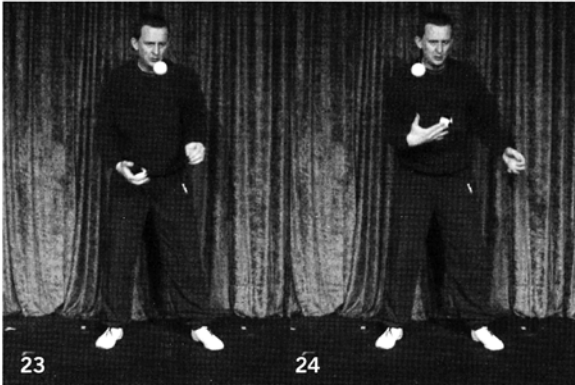


Chop down on the white ball and the gray ball with your left hand. This chop should be just like the chop you perfected in the pre-exercise [Photos 18-19].



After the two balls bounce off of the floor, catch the ascending gray ball in your left hand [Photos 20-22].

Cascade the gray ball from your left hand to your right hand. Catch the white ball in your right hand [Photos 23-24].



You are now cascading the three-balls after having dazzled the audience with a fantastic variation of an Explosive type of opening move.

### Jeton's Jab from a Dynamic Cascade

You can also insert a quick Jeton's Jab into a running, three-ball Cascade. You just need to momentarily collect the gray ball and the white ball in your right hand. This temporary pause in the pattern puts all three balls in the starting position to perform Jeton's Jab.

The transition from a Cascade to Jeton's Jab consists of a throw from the left hand, a collection of two balls in the right hand, and then an additional throw from the left hand. In other words, the left hand will throw two times in a row. The first left-hand throw of this two-in-a-row pair of throws sets up Jeton's Jab. The second left-hand throw is actually the first throw of Jeton's Jab.

A way to practice going from a Cascade into Jeton's Jab involves four preliminary Cascade tosses: right, left, right, left. After the fourth toss you collect the white ball and the gray ball in your right hand.

Begin with the white ball and the striped ball in your right hand, and the gray ball in your left hand.

First Throw: Cascade the white ball from your right hand to your left hand.

Second Throw: Cascade the gray ball from your left hand to your right hand. Catch the white ball in your left hand.

Third Throw: Cascade the striped ball from your right hand to your left hand. Catch the gray ball in your right hand.

Fourth Throw: Throw the white ball from your left hand to your right hand. Catch the striped ball in your left hand.

Don't throw the gray ball that is in your right hand. Roll the gray ball so the little and ring fingers of the right hand hold the ball against the palm of your right hand. Catch the white ball with the thumb, middle, and index fingers of the right hand.

The three balls are now in the same starting position as Jeton's Jab. Cascade the striped ball from your left hand to your right hand for the first throw of Jeton's Jab.

### Surprise Variation on Jeton's Jab

Jeton told me he occasionally surprises himself with a wonderful treat when performing this move on stage. Sometimes the two balls bounce back towards each other in such a manner that he can see they will collide in midair.

If the collision looks like it will be clean, Jeton lets the two balls bounce off of each other before he catches them. In the air, the white ball bounces off the gray ball towards the left hand, while the gray ball bounces off the right ball towards the right hand.

The audience never really understands why Jeton smiles so broadly on those nights when he pulls off this variation. They probably think he performs it this way every time.

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*Featured on the cover of the Nov/Dec 2004 JUGGLE, Jeton is keeping the gentleman juggler tradition alive. Learn more about him at <http://jeton.info>.*