

Secrets of

Choosing

and

Using:



Presented For:

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Teleconference

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CHOOSING AND USING PROPS

with Tim Gard, CSP



Tim inspired me to add the following props to my program:

1. Trigger word: _____

New prop: _____

2. Trigger word: _____

New prop: _____

3. I have started my resource file for catalogs and retail sales locations and new prop ideas.

4. My Federal Tax ID # is:

5. My retail Sales # is:

Notes:



TIM'S PROP FORMULA:

$$\frac{\text{Trigger Word} + \text{Locate}}{\text{Will it fit?}} \div \text{Will it Add?} = \text{Props to Program}$$

TRIGGER WORD: Determine your trigger word or phrase + LOCATE: Choose your prop divided by DOES it fit? divided by WILL IT ADD? = props to program



1. TRIGGER WORD:

a. Identify a single concept, idea, or signature story or joke you want to highlight or reinforce.

b. Summarize your concept until you isolate one "trigger word" or TRIGGER phrase you want to emphasize.

CONSIDERATIONS:

a. Size of audience: _____

b. Do you have to travel light: Y N

c. Universality of item: _____

2. LOCATE:

a. First examine the literal, perhaps obvious choices. Are there real, every day items that personify this word?

b. Brainstorm: The most bizarre prop you can imagine for this idea.



TIM'S PROP FORMULA:



2. LOCATE (con't)

c. Pick something or stop here and add the information to your list of pending ideas and keep your eyes open for new ideas.

CONSIDER

All of your resources:
Catalogs, retail stores, toy stores, internet.

IDEAS

Magicians - Clowns -
Vaudeville - Comedians -
Other Speakers - Coaches...

3. Will it fit? Where will it fit?

4. Will it ADD to my Program?

OPTIONS:

ENHANCERS ~ THEATRICAL PROP
GIVE-AWAYS ~ SIGNATURE PROP

APPLY YOUR PROP FILTERS:

HOW WILL I FRAM ITS USE? WHEN IS THE TIMING RIGHT?

IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY THE ARTICLE WILLOFFEND?

My Prop Choice:

Retail/Bulk Sources:

IS THERE THE POSSIBILITY I CAN RESELL THE ITEM? Y N



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My Cost: \$\$

Sale Cost: \$\$

Tim GARD OFFICIAL DOUBLE SECRET PROBATION LIST OF PROP SOURCES

U.S. Toy Co., Inc 800-255-6124
(great props and give-a-ways)

Oriental Trading Company, Inc.
800-331-6800
\$5.00 Catalog fee
Customer Service: 800-228-0475
(great props and give-a-ways)

Dillion Importing Company: M-G Novelty:
405-948-1234 or 800-654-3696

Lee Jacobs Productions Catalog
(mostly magic items)
24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Note: \$2.00 fee for the catalog
614-992-5208

Brainstorms: 800-231-6000

OTHER PROP RESOURCES

Motivational Stickers: The Added Touch, Inc.
800-608-6824
(Ask for the Managers Motivational pack)

Publicity Buttons: Badge-A-Minit
800-223-4103

Rhode Island Novelty: 800-528-5599

Johnson Smith Company: 813-747-5566

Active Patenting Publishers: 800-825-0060

Guerrilla Mail Catalog: 800-653-7910

B L Winch & Associates: 800-662-9662

Free Spirit Publishing: 800-735-7323

The Business Book: 800-558-0220

Garrison Keillor's Catalog: 800-998-8173

Successories: 800-535-2773

Kipp Brothers: 800-428-1153

Royalty Free Music:
The Music Bakery 800-229-0313

Teacher Ideas Press: 800-237-6124

Visual Horizons: 716-424-5300

Joissu Products: 800-233-1681

Eddie's Trick Shop: 800-544-8278

Long's Electronics: 800-633-3410

Nightingale Conant: 800-323-3938

Save the Children: 800-833-3154

Sweet Impressions: 800-323-8037



OTHER PROP RESOURCES

Constructive Playthings: 800-832-0572
In greater Kansas City call: 816-761-5900

Archie McPhee & Co., Outfitters of Popular Culture:
206-745-0711
mcphee@halcyon.com
<http://www.halcyon.com/mcphee/>

The Humor Project, Inc.
800-225-0330
Local & International: 518-587-8770
<http://www.wizvax.net/humor/>

Tickle Pickle Products Inc.
883 Somerton Ridge
St. Louis, Missouri 63141

Several of these business names and numbers are courtesy of:

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