

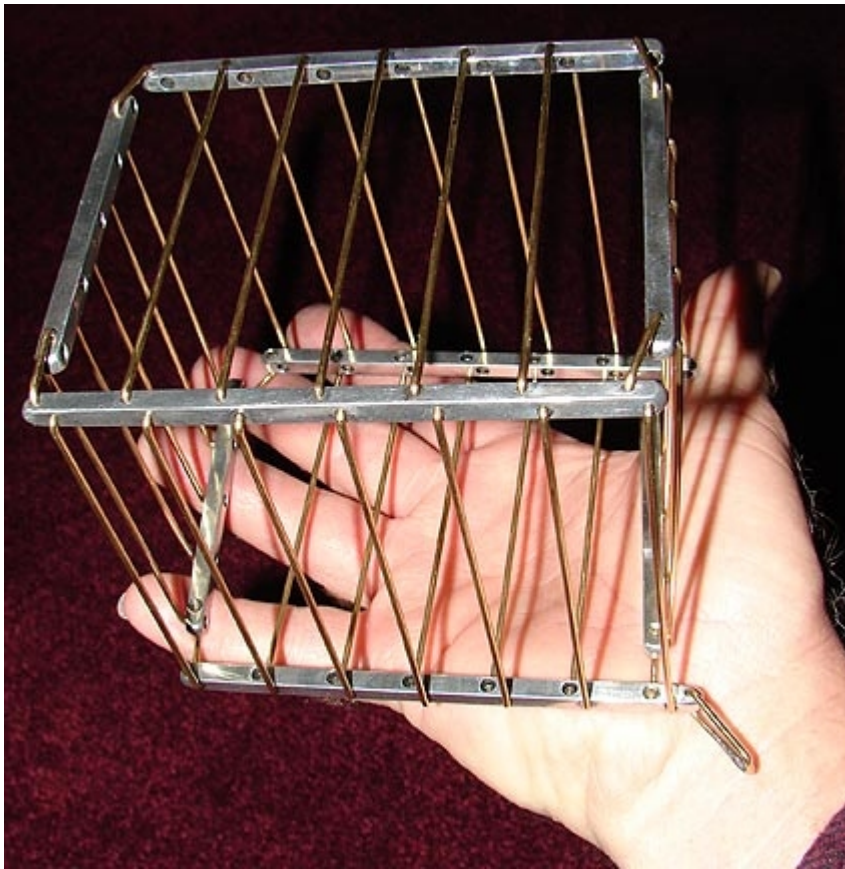
The Three Sizes of Vanishing Birdcages Made by James P. Riser

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Over the years I have made many versions of the Lindhorst style of cage. I chose this particular style as I feel it is the most practical and real looking cage design ever created. This type of cage is termed semi-rigid as it can freely stand in the open position. During the span of time in which I made these cages, I experimented with every aspect of the construction from the recess depth for the fine bar ends to the type of metals used. If something could be varied, I experimented with it. The goal was usually to create the fastest vanishing cage possible.



While experimenting with cage construction, I discovered advantages and disadvantages to every change I tried. A good cage is always a compromise to get as many factors to work together to create the cage desired by the performer. Speed may not be the goal in mind.



In addition, I experimented with cage connections to the pull and with various reels which might be of use with a cage – plus “pull-less” vanishes.

Many magicians ordered my cages over the years and none but one knew enough about the cage vanish to know what to ask for when ordering a cage. Rumors and very poor advice are all over magic related forums on the internet. Most folks offering such misinformed advice obviously never performed let alone mastered the cage vanish. Not all cages are created equal. They are a real pain to properly make with all of the perfectly fitting parts and smooth working joints. There can be no binding anywhere nor any shortcuts to the construction.

This short document was created merely to show the only three sizes of cages that I have ever made. The metals used vary on the few cages shown here, as well as, several more subtle features which are not visible in the photos. I have begun a rather long document with hundreds of pictures explaining various methods that I have used over the years to make my cages. In addition will be instructions on

how to use such cages, care of the cages, special reels, special effects, and various cage connectors. There will also be a short section on the Martin round cage and why it is not really practical - though a clever design. None of this information has ever appeared in print and certainly not on any magic forum. It is time to pass on what I have learned over decades of study so that such information does not get lost to time. This will be a monumental task and the information will not come cheap. It does not need to be in the hands of every magic hack out there.

The cage pictured at the top of this document is one of my original **“Baby Lindy”** cages. It features polished aluminum frames and polished brass bars. Most of my small cages were of aluminum and brass. All of my full sized Lindhorst cages were aluminum and brass. Every cage that I made over the years was stamped with either a capital **“R”** or with a very small **“James P. Riser”**. If a cage is unstamped, it is not one that I made.



Shown above is a **“Baby Lindy”** next to a full size Lindhorst cage. On this full sized cage I was experimenting with using white brass (nickel silver) for the bars. It made no difference in cage construction or in actual use. Both yellow and white brass worked just fine.

Even though these cages vanished too fast to see, I wanted an even faster cage. More speed meant less inertia. Instead of brass bars I started to use a light weight aluminum/magnesium alloy for the bars. The **“Riser Ultralight Cage”** was born.

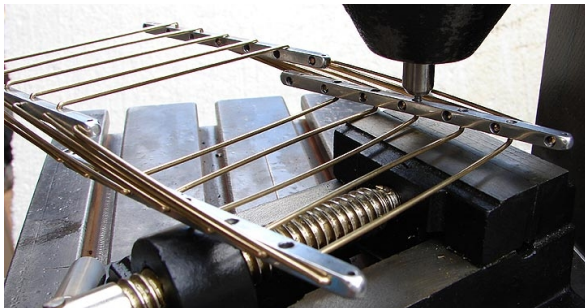
One of my **“Riser Ultralight Cages”** is pictured here. Most **“Ultralights”** were in the **“Baby Lindy”** size.



With the introduction of my **“Riser Ultralight Cage”**, I discontinued making the brass bar type cages.



The above two cages are the last two brass bar **“Baby Lindy”** cages made. All of the later **“Baby Lindy”** and **“Riser Ultralight Cages”** had the bars riveted on with an orbital riveter that I modified just for this task. This machine is shown to the right and below is this custom riveter in action on a cage being assembled.



Here are a few completed rivet heads.



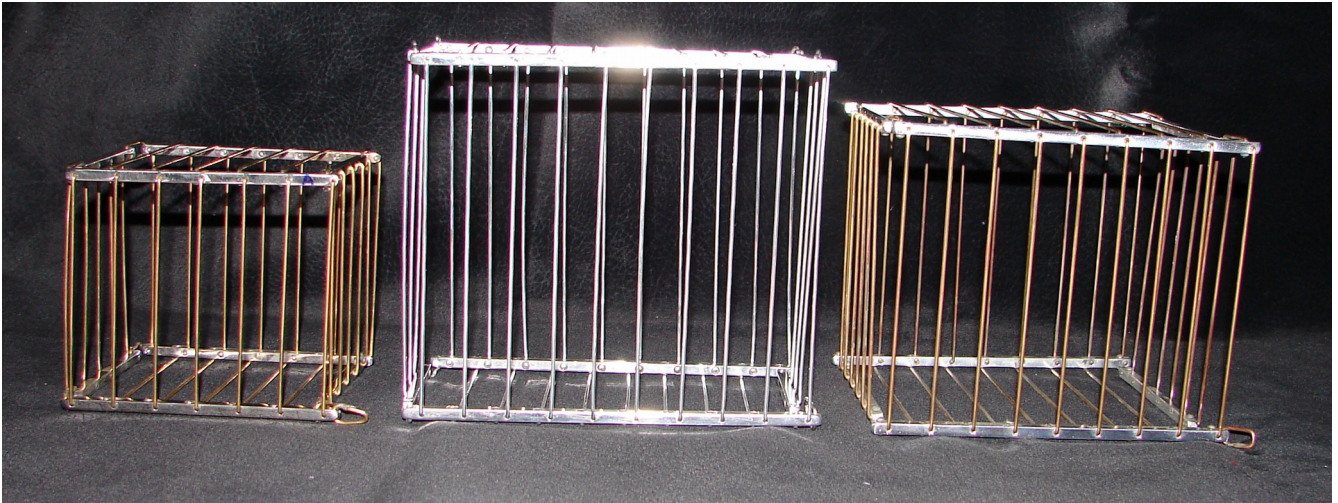


The connecting loop on the cages varied from yellow brass, to white brass, to stainless steel over the years.

The final cage that I made was a custom order for a long time friend and professional. I designed and built a cage which appeared much larger than a standard sized Lindhorst cage. It is shown below with a “**Baby Lindy**” and a standard full size Lindhorst cage.



This oversized cage is a “Riser Ultralight Cage” and goes to the same length as a standard Lindhorst cage when vanished.



The obvious difference in size helps to make the cage even more visible on stage and makes the vanish even more impressive.

