

Pinhole Camera

Group Exercise (Day 1)

Required Materials

- Sheets of RC Multigrade Photographic paper cut into 4 x 5" pieces
 - Pinhole Camera
 - Masking tape to adhere the paper to the inside of the pinhole camera
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Before the fine tuned camera equipped with a lens and precise controls of aperture and shutter speed, photography simply could be defined with the use of a simple light-tight container and a light sensitive surface. Today we can get an appreciation for this more intuitive kind of photography with the use of a pinhole camera. This rudimentary camera will be fitted with a small sheet of photographic paper which will function as the negative.

1. Set up the camera:

Under the safelight in the darkroom, load a sheet of photo paper into the pinhole camera opposite the hole. The emulsion side of the paper (shiny side) should face the hole. Adhere it to the inside of the can with a square of masking tape between the back of the photo paper and the can. Close the lid of the can tightly. Make sure that the pinhole is covered so that no light can enter.

Take your can out of the darkroom and position it where you'd like to experiment with your first shot. Before shooting, record what the light conditions are like (is it bright sunlight? Cloudy? Florescent light?). There should be good light where you decide to take the picture. Put an object or person in front of the camera- about 4-5 ft. from it. This will be your subject.

2. Take your first shot:

When ready to take a picture, make sure that the can is stable, and uncover the hole that is facing your subject. You will need to figure out how long to expose the picture for with a few experiments. Start with 2 minutes exposure. Making sure that the can is kept still, uncover the hole and leave it uncovered for the length of your exposure time. When the time is up, be sure to quickly cover the hole.

3. Develop your first paper negative:

In the darkroom, open the can, remove your paper, and develop it. It will need **1 minute in the developer, 10 seconds in the stop bath, 2 minutes in the fixer, and 5 minutes in the water.** When finished, bring it out into the light in a tray.

4. Assess your exposure:

In the light, take a look at your paper negative. Is it too white? If so, it is under-exposed. Is it too dark? If so it is over-exposed. Determine if you need to adjust your exposure time, and start at step 1 again.

5. Repeat the processes until your image is a clear negative. Make sure that you stay in the same place and light conditions for each step and record your exposure time.

Exposure	Time	Light conditions	Results
1			
2		"-----"	
3		"-----"	
4		"-----"	
5		"-----"	