BUILD A PINHOLE CAMERA

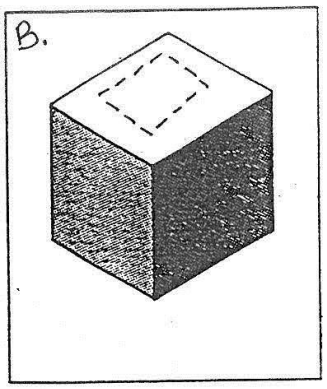
1-Build a Pinhole Camera

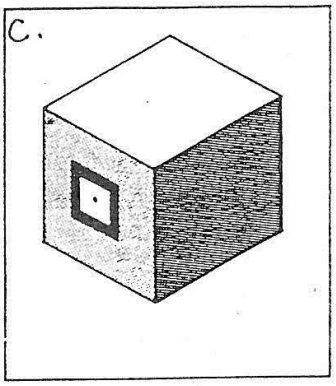
Making the box light-tight is the hard part. The job of making a light-tight box is simplified by getting a well-built box with a deep fitting lid or a can with a lid.

Materials Needed:

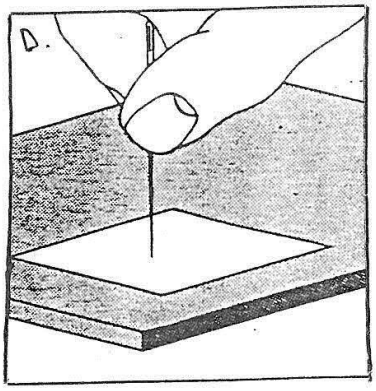
Box or can (can is preferable)
Black gaffer tape and electrical tape
Glue
Small needle
Exacto knife
Black semi-flat paint - krylon spray if using a can
Aluminum foil

A. Paint the inside of the box black, because black absorbs light rays. Use black construction paper or gaffer tape (easier to adhere) to cover any seams or openings and ensure a light-tight box or can.
B. Make a square hole in the center of one side of the box where will be the "lens".
C. Drill the tin foil with a needle to make a very small hole.
D. Tape the aluminum foil over the square hole on the inside of the box with black electrical tape.
E. Cover the pinhole, with a piece of electrical tape to act as the "shutter". Make sure you fold it over at the button end of the tape to make it easier to move it up and down when you're photographing.



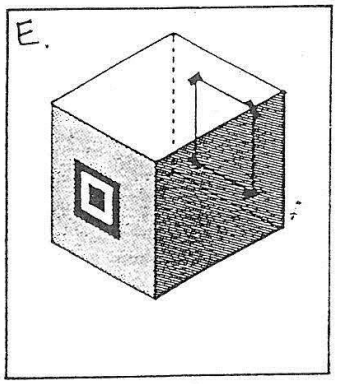


tape aluminum foil over square hole



2- Creating an Image

A. Working in a darkroom or changing bag, place photographic paper inside the camera, with the emulsion (shining side of the paper) facing the pinhole.
B. Secure the tape around the edges of the camera and keep the "shutter" closed as you take the camera to the light.
C. Expose the paper by lifting the "shutter" (flap). Remember to record your exposure time because it takes some testing to get the right exposure!
D. Set up the trays with Developer, Stop ,Fixer and Water.
   Developer -gentle agitation for 1 to 1:30 min
   Stop - gentle agitation for 15 sec
   Fixer - gentle agitation for 1 to 2 min
   Wash running water for 5 min
   Those times are for Ilford chemistry and Ilford RC paper.
E. Hang prints to dry with clothe pins.



tape pinhole closed

Images from Photography In Focus: Basic Text, by Jacobs