

Discovery Room



HOW TO MAKE A PHENAKISTOSCOPE

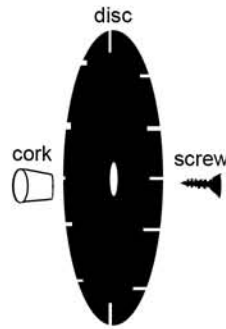
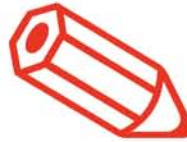
1. Use a compass or other tool to draw a circle with about an 8 inch diameter. (or print out the blank or illustrated disc below).

2. Glue your circle to the cardboard and cut out the disc (including the slots).

3. Draw each stage of the movement/action around the circumference of the disc. You can use the top, middle, and inner space for your drawings but make sure to draw them in a circle between the slots. Try to make gradual movement changes from one picture to the next.

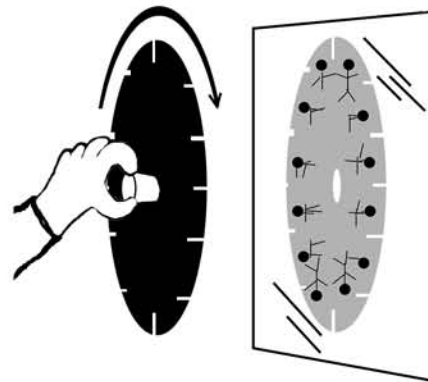
4. Put the screw through the center of the disc (from the front) and screw it into the cork on the other side.

5. Clasping the cork, hold disc up to mirror (with images facing it), spin disc, and look through the slots.



You will need:

- 8"x11" piece of paper
- compass or other tool for drawing your circle
- a cork and a short screw to make the handle
- a mirror that is larger than your disc
- cardboard
- glue
- scissors



WHAT IS A PHENAKISTOSCOPE?

Invented in 1831, the phenakistoscope is a circular, slotted disc with a sequence of images between the slots on one side. The viewer would attach the disc to a handle, hold it up to a mirror at eye level, spin the disc, and look through the slots to see the reflected images appear to move. The slots function like a shutter in a motion picture projector. Without the interruption from a 'shutter' the images would look blurred. Phenakistoscope comes from Greek words meaning 'to cheat' because it tricks the eyes.



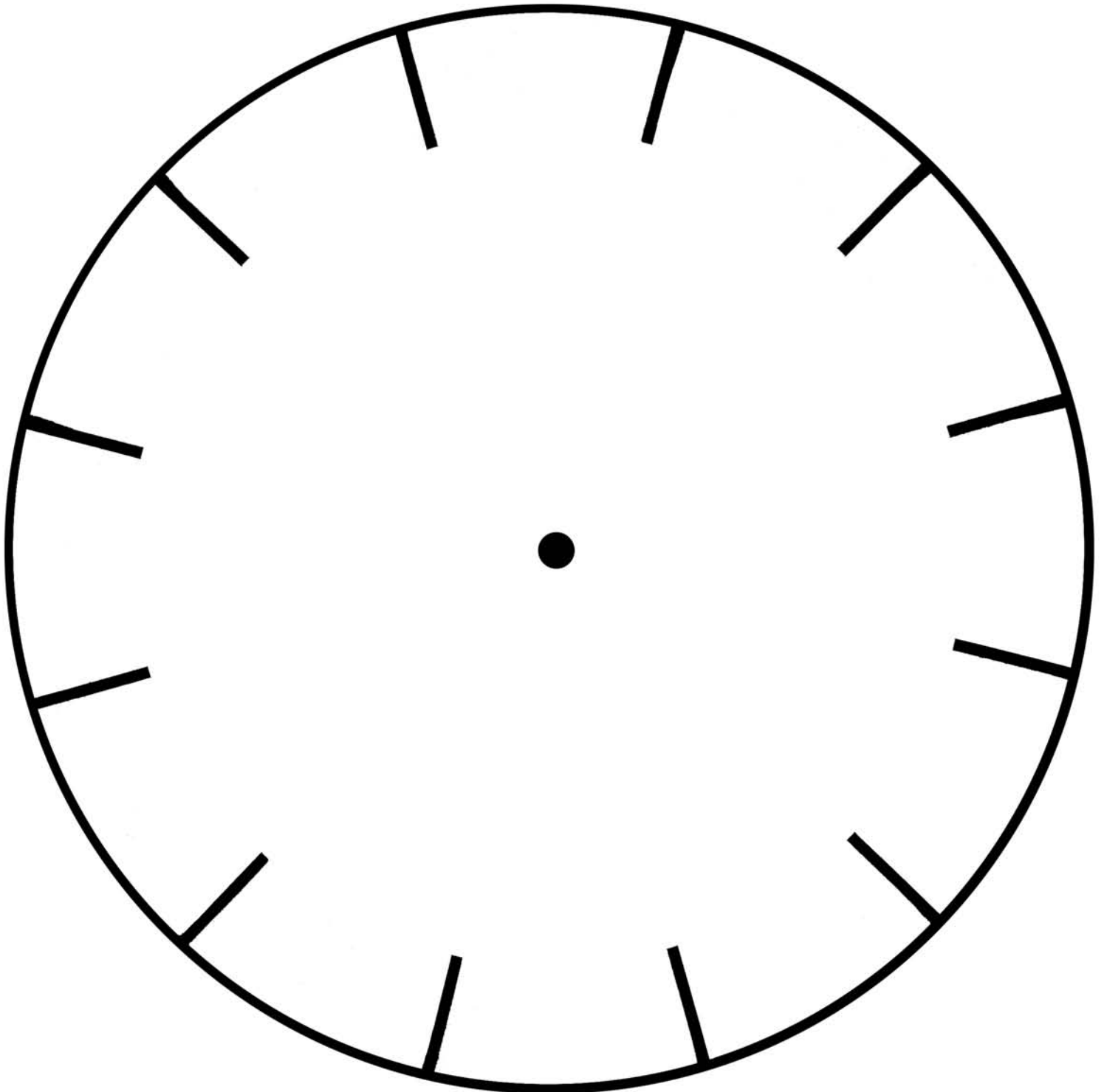
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PHENAKISTOSCOPE DISC



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PHENAKISTOSCOPE TEMPLATE



draw your own design!