

# *So You Want To Create Your Own Transparencies?*

**ED MINOR\***

**W**ANT to add a new dimension to your teaching? Then go "creative" and produce your own transparencies for overhead projection. For the classroom teacher in search of a new and exciting approach to encourage pupil participation and involvement, while at the same time generating a better climate for a more meaningful education process, projected transparencies may be the answer.

We must assume here that one is concerned with the utilization of visual media to improve the learning of theory, as contrasted with the rote learning of abstract or isolated facts, facts that only tend to clutter the young mind instead of becoming a basis for added knowledge.

The overhead projector has been for some time one of our more exciting and respected instructional devices. Recently, this type of projector has loomed into prominence, mainly because certain older transparency-making techniques have been updated and simplified, and because new techniques have been introduced. Moreover, a new era in education has created an unprecedented demand for instructional media.

Today, there are almost unlimited techniques, aids, equipment, materials, and publications for creating overhead transparencies, many of which have been developed with the novice "creator" in mind. For those interested in a more formal approach to acquiring the necessary techniques and skills, there are courses, workshops, and institutes offered by colleges, universities, and equipment and materials manufacturers.

## **Creating Transparencies**

A glance at the list of techniques for creating transparencies for the first time usually causes bewilderment. This bewilderment relates to the large number and variety of techniques which have been designed or can

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be adapted for the making of transparencies. These techniques range all the way from drawing, lettering, or coloring directly on clear or frosted acetate or cellophane to adding "motion" to existing or specially prepared transparencies.

Various publications treat techniques for creating overhead transparencies. A booklet published by the Eastman Kodak Company (1) deals with size standards for projected visual artwork. Burtis and LeMay (2) illustrate and discuss several techniques for producing diazo and other types of transparencies. In Brown, Lewis, and Harclerod's new third edition of *A-V Instruction: Materials and Methods* (3) are several unique techniques for transparency making. The 3M Company (4) booklet *Creative Teaching* includes information related to creation, preparation, and utilization of their infrared transparency films.

A detailed, nontechnical, self-instructional book written by Bathurst and Klein (5) describes all the processes necessary for the creation of thermocopy transparencies. Eboch's *Operating Audio-Visual Equipment* (6) includes a section on preparation of handmade slides and overhead projection transparencies. Roy A. Frye's third edition of *Graphic Tools for Teachers* (7) includes a number of techniques for the preparation of all types of visual instructional media. A booklet dealing mainly with the use of pressure-sensitive transparent materials for producing handmade transparencies has been written by Kelley and Sleeman (8). *Planning and Producing Audiovisual Materials* by Kemp (9), one of the better books to come along in a long time, provides a guide to the planning and producing of audiovisual materials. The Minor book (10) was written mainly for the classroom teacher. This book includes a number of simplified techniques for producing transparencies for projection and display.

A new book, *Techniques for Producing Visual Instructional Media* (11), is to be released by McGraw-Hill Book Company in November 1969. This comprehensive textbook will contain an array of techniques for producing all types of transparencies and other types of visual media. Bob Mooney has come up with a well-written manual (12) for the producer of overhead transparencies. He has also covered the effective utilization of the overhead projector. A booklet, published by the University of Texas Visual Instruction Bureau (13), *Overhead System: Production, Implementation and Utilization*, is solely concerned with transparencies.

Morton J. Schultz (14) has written a comprehensive book related to the creation of transparencies, using the thermocopy process. Also included in this book are suggested uses of the overhead projector in the teaching of a variety of subject matter areas. Companies like Eastman Kodak, 3M, Chartpak Rotex (15), Technifax (16), Keuffel & Esser (17), and Technamation (18) have developed some very fine materials for promoting the creation and utilization of transparencies in teaching. Catalogs, which may be requested from these companies, contain illustrations and descriptions of materials, equipment, and publications related to transparencies. Professional journals also contain articles related to visual media innovations.

Many other publications deal specifically with overhead transparencies. Those listed, however, should provide one with a good start in the right direction. Several transparency innovations have added to an already fascinating instructional tool. Special polarizing materials manufactured



**Making Transparencies**

by Technifax (16), Keuffel (17), and Technamation (18) can be added to transparencies to create simulated realistic motion. Applied Sciences, Inc. (19) has developed a film (Transmate) which is coated on both sides for use in any thermocopy machine (Thermofax is one). This film can also be typed on directly and will accept colored ball point and nylon point pens. A combination spirit master-transparency has been developed by Columbia Ribbon-Carbon (20). The clear master can be drawn, written, and typed on directly. The master is then used to run off paper copies on a spirit duplicator and also can be projected on an overhead projector.

One need not necessarily enroll in a formal course or read a production publication to create transparencies. It can all start with a desire to "customize" instruction through an effective instructional medium, overhead projection. Look around for visual ideas—in catalogs of commercial producers of transparencies and related materials, magazines, and newspapers. Start with simple ideas; trace or draw directly on clear acetate or draw on a sheet of paper with an ordinary lead pencil and run through a thermocopy machine with thermocopy film. The results should generate enough excitement to explore the "new world" of visual instructional media.

#### **References**

1. *Art-Work Size Standards for Projected Visuals* (Number S-12). Eastman Kodak Co., Rochester, N.Y. 14650
2. Eric F. Burtis and James E. LeMay. *They See What You Mean*. General Aniline & Film Corp., 140 West 51st Street, New York, N.Y. 10020



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