WELCOME!
Thank you for your curiosity about why we see round images of the Sun through non-round holes!

Section 1: How to Use the 3-Hole PUNCH Pinhole Projector

Scan here to access all PUNCH Outreach products or visit: https://punch.space.swri.edu/punch_outreach_products.php

For questions or to request our 1-page monthly newsletter: Contact PUNCHOutreach@gmail.com
[Really] Understanding Pinhole Projection of the Sun

Follow along with our playful learning adventure!

And PLEASE give us feedback on these questions at the link below:

Insights gained?
Remaining questions?
Ideas for improvements?

https://tinyurl.com/PinholeFeedback

MARK 3 Version
Final Release for use up to and including the Annular Eclipse on 14 Oct 2023

3-Hole PUNCH Pinhole Projector

DO NOT use this card to look directly at the Sun!

1. With your back to the Sun, hold this card so that the Sun's rays pass directly through the holes onto a smooth surface like a wall or sidewalk (depending on the height of the Sun). Move the card closer until you see triangular, round, and square shapes of light on the surface.

2. Observe the shapes of light as you slowly move the card farther from the surface. When all three shapes change to round, each hole is forming an image of the round Sun! Making images using only a small hole is called “pinhole projection.”

3. Try using this card during a solar eclipse to see inverted images of the Moon partly blocking the Sun!

4. Small gaps between plant leaves can also form “pinhole images” of the Sun. Look for round shapes of light mixed in with the shadows!
Essential viewing:

6-minute “how-to-facilitate” video

[https://punch.space.swri.edu/punch_outreach_pinholeprojector.php]
# [Really] Understanding Pinhole Projection of the Sun

## Introducing Bhanu

[BAH-noo]

Bhanu means “ray of light” in Sanskrit

Bhanu helps guide our way through these Sections. You are in **Section 1 of 5**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title of Section</th>
<th>Description of Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>How to Use the 3-Hole PUNCH Pinhole Projector</td>
<td>introduces the 3-Hole PUNCH Pinhole Projector, demonstrates how to use it both outdoors and indoors, and describes its differences from a pinhole camera/viewer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Observing Pinhole Images of the Sun in Our Everyday Environments</td>
<td>teaches you how to observe the phenomenon of pinhole images of the Sun in our everyday world, both indoors and outdoors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Exploring Pinhole Projection Using Your Own Hands</td>
<td>invites you to explore the behavior of pinhole projection by experimenting with your own hands (try both palms up!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Explaining and Understanding How Pinhole Imaging Happens</td>
<td>interactively guides your quest for explanations and deeper understanding of how pinhole imaging happens. After this, you will really understand why small, lens-less holes can create images.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>APPENDICES A-E: More Insights &amp; Fun Resources</td>
<td>offers more insights &amp; resources (e.g., explaining the relationship between pinhole images and the view through “eclipse” glasses)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CONTACT:**

Dr. Cherilynn Morrow, Outreach Director for the NASA PUNCH mission [cherilynn.morrow@gmail.com]
1. How to Use the 3-Hole PUNCH Pinhole Projector

Bahnu says: “Pinhole” describes a projector or camera that does not use a hard lens but only a small hole or gap to make images of the Sun or other objects. A “pinhole” does not have to be pin-sized to create an image of the Sun, nor does it have to be round!

Section 5: Appendix C explains the difference between a lens-less “pinhole” and a lens and helps you to appreciate more what a lens is doing to make a clear image.

CONTACT:
Dr. Cherilynn Morrow, Outreach Director for the NASA PUNCH mission [cherilynn.morrow@gmail.com]
Introducing the **3-Hole PUNCH Pinhole Projector**

The NASA PUNCH Outreach team has developed the **3-Hole PUNCH Pinhole Projector** so you can have fun exploring how small, *non-round* holes can project *real* images of the *round* Sun. This can be done on any sunny day, not only when the Sun is eclipsed by the Moon!

**DO NOT** use this card to look directly at the Sun!

1. With your back to the Sun, hold this card so that the Sun’s rays pass directly through the holes onto a smooth surface like a wall or sidewalk (depending on the height of the Sun). Move the card closer until you see triangular, round, and square shapes of light on the surface.

2. Observe the shapes of light as you slowly move the card farther from the surface. When all three shapes change to round, each hole is forming an *image* of the round Sun! Making images using only a small hole is called “pinhole projection.”

3. Try using this card during a solar eclipse to see inverted images of the Moon partly blocking the Sun.

4. Small gaps between plant leaves can also form “pinhole images” of the Sun. Look for round shapes of light mixed in with the shadows!

What’s going on? Visit the website on the other side of this card to learn more!
Introducing the
3-Hole PUNCH Pinhole Projector

Our projector is printed on card stock with three small (~5 mm) holes of different shapes: square, round, and triangular.

Our design has carefully considered the size, position, and spacing of the “pinholes” so that the projector can work well indoors or outdoors in broad daylight. Section 5: Appendix D explains our design trade-offs.
Using the PUNCH Pinhole Projector

NEVER EVER look at the Sun through the holes in the card!

1. Sunlight comes from this direction.

2. Passes through the 3 different shaped holes.

3. 3 round images of the Sun appear in the shadow of projector.

JO is using a vertical wall as the *smooth flat projection surface* because the Sun is lower in the sky. If the Sun were higher, then a horizontal surface like a sidewalk might work better.

JO is observing in the morning in December.

Outreach for the NASA PUNCH mission.

3-Hole PUNCH Pinhole Projector

**DO NOT** use this card to look directly at the Sun!

1. With your back to the Sun, hold the card so that the Sun rays pass through the holes onto a smooth surface like a wall or sidewalk (obscuring the Sun's height in the sky). Move the card closer until you see triangle, round, and square shapes of light on the surface.

2. Observe the shapes of light as you slowly move the card further from the surface. When all three shapes are visible, you will see an image of the round Sun! Making images using only one small hole is called "pinhole photography."

3. Try using this card during a solar eclipse to see inverted images of the Moon partly blocking the Sun.

4. Small gaps between plant leaves can also form "pinhole images" of the Sun. Look for round shapes of light instead of holes in the shadows.

NEVER EVER look at the Sun through the holes in the card!
1. Projector close to surface. Triangle, round, and square shapes of light are sharp.

2. Projector farther away from surface. All three shapes of light are round and fuzzier.

**KEY QUESTION:** Why don’t we see round images of the Sun when the projector is held closer to the projection surface (Case 1), but we do see them when we move it farther away (Case 2)?

Were you able to observe both Case 1 and Case 2?

JO is observing in the morning in Dec
Indoor Use of the PUNCH Pinhole Projector

You can try out using the projector where sunlight streams through a window. You will get the same effects as outdoors, but there is less stray light indoors compared to broad daylight. Thus, as you move the projector farther away from the projection surface you can more easily perceive larger, dimmer, and somewhat sharper images. The projected image size can become much larger than the hole size.

Play with your Projector in different situations to see what can happen!
Using an Indoor Light Fixture as a Light Source Instead of the Sun

Being observant and playful leads to cool discoveries!

In Dec 2022, PUNCH team members and collaborators contributing to a public engagement program at the Adler Planetarium in Chicago discovered that our projector could project images of the ceiling lights! As you can see below, at the Adler, the spotlights in the ceiling are star-shaped!*

RK demonstrates our pinhole projector indoors for Adler visitors.

The projections are star-shaped because the light source is star-shaped.
Pinhole Projection Using a Masked LED Lamp as the Light Source Instead of the Sun

Try using our projector with a (low-temperature) LED light fixture.

Use a cut out to alter the shape of the light source.

NOTE: See Section 5, Appendix A for a neat demo using the F-shaped mask.

The mask changes the shape of the light source.

The Projector holes are each imaging the star shape of the light source.

NOTE: If the Projector were held closer to the surface, we would still see the triangular, round, and square-shaped holes.
What is the difference between our Pinhole *Projector* and a Pinhole *Camera*?

Set-up for a Pinhole Viewer or *Camera*

- Pinhole camera
- Pin-sized pinhole
- Light rays
- Darkened Projection surface

Set-up for a Pinhole *Projector*

- Projection surface in broad daylight
- Image of round Sun through square hole
- Sunlight comes from this direction and passes thru the 3 holes

Important differences are the size of the hole and whether the projection surface must be in the dark rather than working in broad daylight. See Table on the next slide.

**Section 5: Appendix D** provides details about our design trade-offs and why our pinhole *projector* has larger holes than pinhole *cameras* which have pin-sized holes.

Adapted from Figure 3
https://www.scratchapixel.com/lessons/3d-basic-rendering/3d-viewing-pinhole-camera

3-Hole PUNCH
Pinhole Projector with ~ 5mm holes
What is the difference between our Pinhole *Projector* and a Pinhole *Camera*?

Compare the images on the previous slide to help interpret the Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pinhole <em>Camera</em></th>
<th>Pinhole <em>Projector</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Size of Hole</strong></td>
<td>Pin-sized hole</td>
<td>Larger holes (~5 mm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Object being imaged</strong></td>
<td>Can be the Sun but is usually an object reflecting the Sun’s light</td>
<td>Can be the Sun or other bright light source, even indoor lighting fixtures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Projected images</strong></td>
<td>To see the dim image formed through a tiny hole, you must enclose the projection surface in a space that is completely dark.</td>
<td>Images can be seen in broad daylight. They appear on a projection surface in the shade of projector.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Photography</strong></td>
<td>Photos can be created using light-sensitive paper or film on the projection surface</td>
<td>Does not record photos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Bahnu says:** Prove that a pin-sized hole won’t create an image of the Sun that you can see in broad daylight. Use a pin or thumb tack to poke a hole in our projector so you can compare what happens with a pinhole-sized hole vs the 5mm holes of the Projector. Remember that **Section 5: Appendix D** explains our design trade-offs.
Pinhole Projection of the Sun

Observing the 2017 solar eclipse using a simple pinhole projector with a single square hole.

RB is observing on 21 August 2017 in Roberts, Idaho at 10:52 am

Pinhole image of the round Sun being eclipsed by the Moon during the 2017 Great American Eclipse

square hole in a 3 x 5” card can be a “pinhole” projector
Gaps between tree leaves make wonderful pinhole image displays as the Moon eclipses the Sun.

During solar eclipses it is easier to tell that we are seeing real pinhole images of the eclipsed Sun among the shadows of leaves.

Upper left image by Cantavestrella. See Credits & Acknowledgements.
Link for Feedback
Valuable References
Credits & Acknowledgements
Links to PUNCH & PUNCH Outreach Products
Outreach for the NASA PUNCH mission

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR FEEDBACK

We take all feedback very seriously and are using it to keep improving our projector and this presentation.

Please scan the QR code or go to this URL to give us feedback

https://tinyurl.com/PinholeFeedback

Insights gained? Remaining questions? Ideas for improvements?

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Valuable References

1. Lenses and Pinholes: What Does “In Focus” Mean?
A brief and clear explanation about what it means to be “in focus”:
https://www.physicsforums.com/insights/lenses-pinholes-focus-mean/

2. How a Pinhole Camera Works (Part 1)
Excellent diagrams:

3. Real image: Collection of focus points made by converging light rays
We love the simple but insightful stick-figure:
https://www.wikiwand.com/en/Real_image

4. Your Eyes See Upside Down and Reversed
Lucid explanation by an eye doctor (MD) relating human eye to a pinhole camera:
https://bceye.com/retinal-image-inverted-reversed/

5. Camera Obscura
The history of this wondrous effect, including reference to a possible paleo-camera:

A thorough and playful journey through the technical details of pinhole photography:
Credits & Acknowledgements

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Mike Zawaski (reviewer/consultant on explanatory presentation, graphic support, photos)
Sanlyn Buxner (head of field testing and evaluation, photos)
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Ronnie Killough (PUNCH Program Manager, field tester)
Gilly Gilbert (PUNCH Associate Investigator, field tester)
Countless others (who participated in field testing events and gave us their feedback)

Thank you also to our web developer Don Kolinski for posting and updating our work on the PUNCH website.
Please proceed to Section 2:

Observing Pinhole Images of the Sun in Our Everyday Environments

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