



How to make a camera-less photogram:

Choose your objects and plan how you are going to lay them out. Be sure you have a dynamic composition and it should tell some kind of story or create some kind of interesting scene. Camera-less is working out of thin air, so you really need to make sure you give this thought if you would like to get a decent grade on this.

Set up your enlarger at 2 or 3 clicks for the aperture

Set the timer to 5 seconds

Be sure light is off on timer

Set a test strip down under one of the objects making sure that part of the test strip is uncovered so the photo paper will be exposed to the light

Hit the timer button once only

Take the test strip through the chemistry

Check to see if the exposure is as you want it. The exposed paper should be black and the unexposed area should be white or may have tones of gray if the object is somewhat translucent. If the exposed area is too light, increase the time or open up the aperture a click. If the subject is getting too dark, do the opposite.



How to make a photogram with a negative:

Choose your negative wisely. Be sure there are areas where your objects will show up well with the background. The object(s) you use should have some kind of compositional and/or contextual connection to the background.

Be sure to use your print easel for this so you have a better target of where to put your objects down.

Get negative in focus as usual and then, with the light on and with no photo paper down, lay out the objects where you want them to be prepared for when you are ready to do this on photo paper.

Shut off light and remove objects.

Do a test strip as normal with the negative in the enlarger and take test strip through the chemistry (no objects for this – you are looking to expose the negative correctly).

Once you determine exposure, set your timer correctly and be sure light is off on enlarger

Set the full sheet of photo paper down on the print easel and lay the objects down as you want them to be and then click the button to make the exposure and take it through the chemistry

Be sure the exposure works well across the whole print. If you need to dodge or burn, do so accordingly