

The Fabricated Image: Josh Frielich's 'How to make a Can into a Camera'

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What is a camera?

- Came from Camera Obscura - Latin for "Dark Room". Originally used as a Drawing Machine.
- **Aperture** - An opening to let light into a dark space. This can be a lens on a traditional camera. For our cameras we will make a 'Pinhole'
- **"Film"** - a media to record the image projected through your aperture. In digital cameras and iPhones we have a digital sensor, traditional cameras have 35 mm film, our cameras will use RC (resin coated) Photo paper.



Step 1: Get a Large *Tea* Can

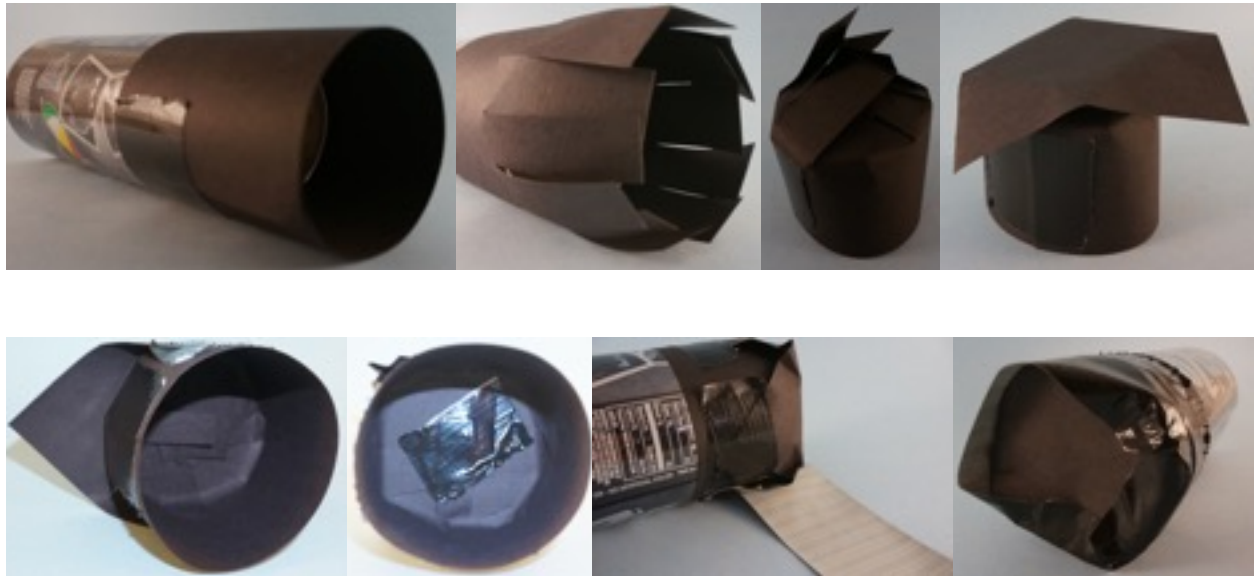


Step 2: Drink Contents of *Tea* Can



Step 3: Use Standard Can Opener to Remove top of Large Can

Step 4: Make a Light-Tight **TIGHT** lid out of black construction paper.



OPTIONAL: Spray Paint the Interior matte/flat Black (the reflective interior of the aluminum may create “artifacts”, this may be something *creative* or it may be unwanted. I suggest you play around with painted and unpainted interiors to see the affects.)



Step 5: Cut a small square out of your can. (I usual allow *knife trusted* students to do this) The hole should be about a quarter of an inch. Cut as close to the center as possible (vertically).



Step 6: Take a piece of spare aluminum, it should be larger than your hole you cut out of your can. Place aluminum on a news paper or card-stock. Gently press a pin in the center of the aluminum to create a small bump. Sand this bump until a tiny hole is created. This is your aperture. A larger hole will cause your image to be more blurry, and exposure time will be much shorter.





Step 7: Tape your pinhole over the square opening on your can matching the curve of the aluminum. Use electrical tape to make sure there is no light leaks. Use a Sharpie to circle your pinhole on the inside to help line it up with your square cut out.



Step 8: Use electric tape to create a "Shutter". This is a one inch piece of tape with the end folded over so it can be easily removed.

Step 9: Use scrap paper to figure out what size "Film" you will need. Make sure your pinhole has room. (I cut my paper to 6 1/2 " x 8")



Step 10: Head into the Darkroom and cut your photo paper. Remember that the paper is sensitive to light, but safe in the red light.

Step 11: Place your photo paper in your can making sure not to cover your pin hole. (I like to remove the shutter and hold the pinhole up to the safe light and see that dot of red light in my can)

Step 12: Secure your lid on your Can-camera.

Step 13: Set your can firmly on the ground (I place a rock on the top). Remove your electric tape shutter and expose for about 1 minute. DOCUMENT the exact length of time exposed.

Step 14: Process Paper in the darkroom. Once paper has been processed and washed, you can take it into the light and assess your exposure, remember this is a negative. your image should have whites and blacks. If paper is too black lower exposure time, if paper is too white add time to your exposure. Remember that each pinhole is slightly different, so label each camera.

NOTES:

Can Marking (Number): _____

	Exposure Time	Thoughts (too dark too light etc.)
1	:	
2	:	
3	:	
4	:	
5	:	
6	:	
7	:	
8	:	



Pinhole camera
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