

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The cover for *OVD* Vol 41 No 2 shows an interesting activity being done in just about the least productive way possible. Below is our write up of the procedure. You can see here how critical the light position is in effecting the actual results of the activity. I have a video of it that we show in the courses as well.

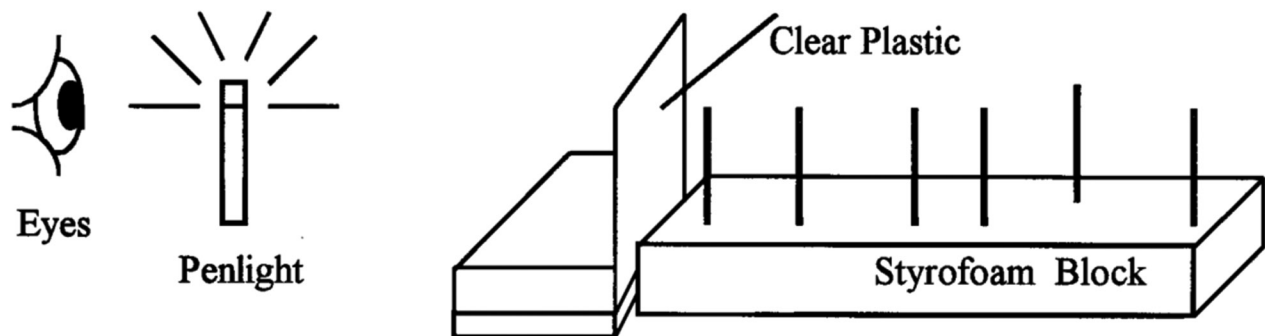
Paul Harris, OD, FCOVD, FACBO, FAAO – Southern College of Optometry

Movable Forest

Purpose: To provide the patient with the opportunity to have the necessary meaningful experience to compute space accurately and to appreciate the volume of space between objects in the visual field.

Note: Normally done as an in-office activity, although could be assigned for homework if the patient has someone to observe their performance and give feedback on how they are doing.

1. Use a Styrofoam block with about 6 colored “pick up sticks” stuck along its length, standing vertically.
2. Place the piece of clear plastic in front of the Styrofoam’s short side. (See diagram below). A good way to support the plastic is to use a box wider than the plastic. Take the lid off, put it on the bottom of the box, and place the plastic between the box and lid.



3. Standing in front of the box that holds the plastic, the patient is to hold a lit penlight vertically between their eyes and the sheet of plastic. They will see the light reflected in the plastic. By moving the light in toward the plastic and out away from it, have them place the reflected light “on top” of each of the sticks in turn. In order to do this, they must move the light in or out till it is the same distance away from the plastic as the target is in back. **Note:** A lot of patients will merely put the light image *in line* with the target at first. You must communicate the idea that the light must sit right on top of the stick and be as far away as the stick is.
 4. The patient can check their accuracy by moving their head to the side and seeing if they are exactly on target. The therapist can also check by seeing if they are the proper distance away from the plastic.
 5. The patient may also be asked to move the light up and down along the length of each stick and keep it at the proper distance.
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Dear Dr. Harris,

Thank you for taking the time to let us know how to improve using this unique therapeutic device. I and, I am sure, all of our readers appreciate your continuing good work on behalf of behavioral, functional, and developmental optometry.

Sincerely,

Dominick M. Maino, OD, MEd, FAAO, FCOVD-A – Editor *OVD*