

Magical Prints with Moiré Patterns

Moiré patterns are created when two grids are overlapped, either at an angle or when the grids are of slightly different sizes. Using Sunprints, you can capture and study moiré patterns, and moiré patterns make a good decorative background for a print of other objects.

What you need:

- Sunprint paper
- Transparencies
- Laser printer
- Other flat objects (optional)
- Acrylic sheet
- Pan of water

Making the Sunprint:

Moiré patterns using two transparencies at once:

1. Print out the desired patterns on transparency sheets. Typically, to get the
2. Choose two, and overlap them.
3. When you have created an interesting pattern, set it on the Sunprint paper, and place the acrylic on top. Leave it in the sun to expose for 1-2 minutes, or until the uncovered paper is a light bluish white.
4. Soak the print in water for about 45 seconds, and allow it to dry and develop.

Moiré patterns using one transparency at a time:

1. Place one transparency on the Sunprint paper, with the acrylic sheet on the top.

2. Allow it to expose for 40 seconds in the sun.
3. Take it into the shade, and either put a different transparency in place of the first one or change the angle of the original. Do not develop the paper.
4. Put the Sunprint paper and transparency back into the sun to expose until bluish white.
5. Soak the print in water for about 45 seconds, and allow it to dry and develop.

Going further:

- How is double exposure with one transparency different from single exposure with two transparencies?
- What happens if you put an interesting flat object on the paper during just one of the single-transparency exposures?











