

Do-it-yourself Slides for Projection: An easy way

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EFFECTIVE SLIDES for projection during lecturing or delivering papers can be made by using coloured felt-tip pens (heavy type) for the lettering and drawing, together with soft pencil or ink to add variety, on stout paper. These can then be photographed with colour film. Take the meter reading directly from the white paper and divide the exposure index of the film by 5 (High Speed Ektachrome should thus be used as if ASA 32). Colour film may be used for wholly black-and-white figures, but it is as well to take full advantage of the colour. It is often convenient to take the material outdoors for photographing.

A lightly pencilled frame of 12 x 8 inches is a useful size, but this may be altered by drawing a diagonal and fitting a convenient frame in the same proportions of a 35 mm negative. Letters and drawings should fill the pencilled frame, but allow a margin of more than 1/2 inch all around when photographing to compensate for the encroachment of the card frame in which the slides will be bound. Freehand lettering is effective but may be greatly improved if a soft pencil is used with a stencil as a guide. A moderately complex diagram with lettering, in several colours, can be completed in 20 minutes.

Charts from published works may be redrawn, usually to great advantage. Photograph the originals on black-and-white film, bind the negatives as slides (unless you use an enlarger, which is even easier), mark the necessary points in pencil on the 12 x 8 inch frame by projecting the negative, and fill in heavily with colour. At the same time, such charts may be edited to suit the talk, and parts of the caption may be transferred to the figure itself.

Aim at using *large* lettering — at least $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches high with heavy felt pen in a 12 x 8 inch frame — so that most of the available space is filled with bold lettering and heavy lines. One advantage of this method is that the felt pens facilitate easy reading from the back of a hall. Another advantage is that use of a variety of colours makes it much easier for the audience to follow complicated charts — or any charts. Also, the slides are attractive to the eye.

Intermingling usual colour slides of scenes, patients, etc. with black-on-white charts requires constant readjustment of the eye after the glare of the charts. It is better to use heavy felt pens for the black-on-white charts and to photograph these with contrasty film given contrasty development.

The *negatives* can be used effectively for direct projection of white on black; but it is nevertheless better to intermingle slides prepared as here described.

INVERTEBRATA

A. PATHOGENIC

TOXIC

Poisonous
Venomous
Urticating
Sensitizing
Vesicating

PESTIFEROUS

- may be loss of blood

TISSUE-INVADING

B. VECTORS

MECHANICAL VECTORS

BIOLOGICAL VECTORS

C. INTERMEDIATE HOSTS

One type of slide that is very useful for keeping the audience informed while the subject is changed is a set of headings, perhaps in more than one colour. Shown repeatedly, each time with a moving arrow indicating a different line, it gives the audience an overview of the subject. Quick glances at such slides help to simplify a complex talk.

References

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