

# A Polarizing Topic

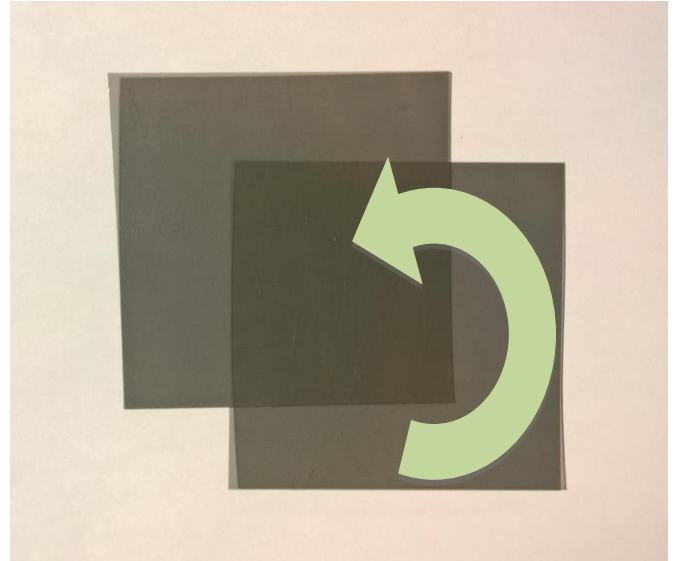
*This exhibit is dedicated to generous Little Free Museum supporters William and Anna Mae Schwartz.*

## Try It Out

Pick up the two plastic squares from the container on the left and hold them against each other. Now rotate one of the squares. What happens?

## What's Going On?

These pieces of plastic are called polarizing filters. Normally light travels like waves in all sorts of different directions. But these filters only allow those waves to travel up and down in a single direction. Put two of them together in opposite orientation, and you stop light from travelling through!

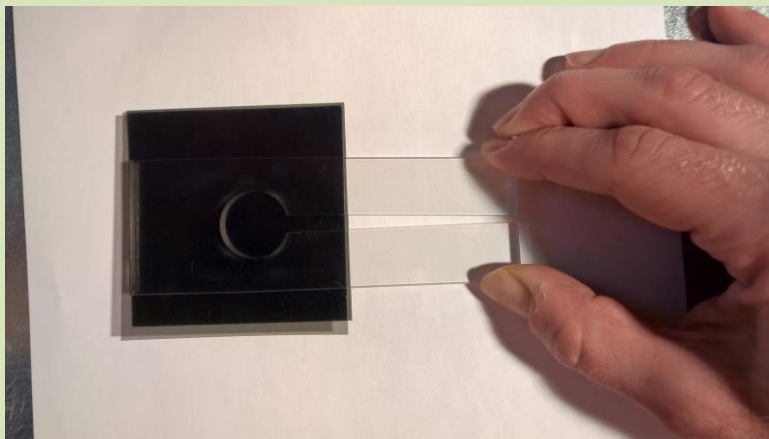


## Why Does It Matter?

Polarizing filters have many applications from practical (sunglasses keeping the sun's glare out of your eyes) to fun (seen a 3D movie lately?).

## To Wonder While You Walk...

Before you leave, try putting the Plexiglas piece on the right in between the two polarizing filters, with the filters oriented so light doesn't pass through. Now squeeze the ends of the Plexiglas. What do you see? How do you explain this?



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