TheDeadCinemaArchive

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Projector, no light source. Hole in top to vent heat from candle or bulb. Slides are glass and each contain four colour images. Lens has two elements, one fixed at the back and the front element freely slides in and out of the lens-tube structure.

The term "Magic Lantern" usually refers to devices such as the one above, basically a slide projector, but there were endless variations of them which could be included here. One example is the NIC Projector which employed a wax paper scroll with two corresponding images on it. The two lenses of the projector and a shutter which shifted the image from one to the other created a rudimentary moving image.


The tradition of magic lanterns, alongside other optical devices, being treated as toys dates back to the middle of the 19th century and continues today. This relatively contemporary Disney device is a projector and music box, running on a spring and some c-cell batteries to project a rotating scene onto a child's ceiling. The device came with multiple slides/transparencies so naturally an inventive person could create new images for use within it.

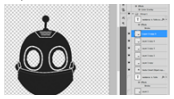
This projector, similar in scale, materials, and age to the one on the top of the page, has s crank which, when turned, moves a number of other gears leading to an intermittent movement of cogs inside the unit where a piece of 35mm film would move forward (probably one frame) every revolution and then hold until the next revolution is completed. . It is also non-electric and is probably illuminated using a candle (courtesy professor Sarah Abbott).

The Scanimation of Picket Fence animation is based of the principles that govern moire patters. This being the interference between two the movement between two identical patterns. (A common occurrence of this can be seen between two pieces of mesh on a screen door)

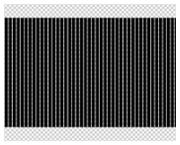
Original Patent

1) Find 6 frames of animation. This can be frames from video or a made up one of your own. Black and blocky images work best.

2) Put each frame in its own layer in Photoshop stacked one on each.

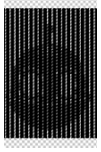


3) Create a series of black bars to cover the animation. The black bars should be 5units of measurement each with a one unit gap (for example if the bars were 5/32 of an inch wide the space between the bars would be 1/32 of an inch)



4) Now place the bars over the first frame of animation.

5) Select the bars.



6) Delete the bars selection on the first frame.

7) Now hide the first layer and show the second. Mover the bars one unit to the right and select and delete again.

8) Do this for the remaining layers.

9) Print the newly created image.

10) Print the bars on mylar or another clear medium.

This purpose of this wiki is to collect a brief history, instruction, and any other information on pre-cinema and optical devices.

Camera Obscura	Filpbook	Thaumatrope
Magic Lantern	Praxinoscope	Zoetrope
Scanimation (Picket Fence Animation)	Pinhole Camera	Viewmaster

Projector	Credited inventor/company
Cinematographe	Lumiere Brothers
Biograph	American Mutoscope and Biograph co.
Vitascope	Edison
Kineoptikon	Birt Acres
Eidoloscope (Pantioptikon)	Lauste/Rector/Dickson
Cinographoscope	
Maginscope	Edward Amet
Animatoscope	Lyman Howe
Projectograph	International Film Company
Panoramographe	
Cineograph	Lubin