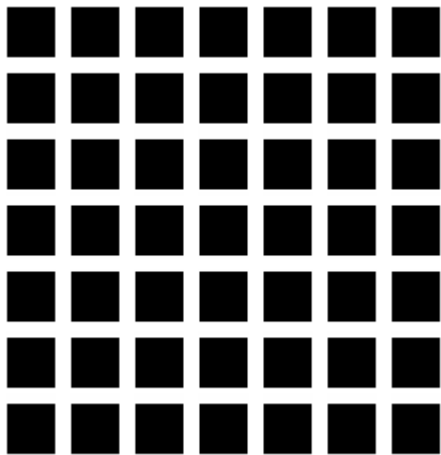


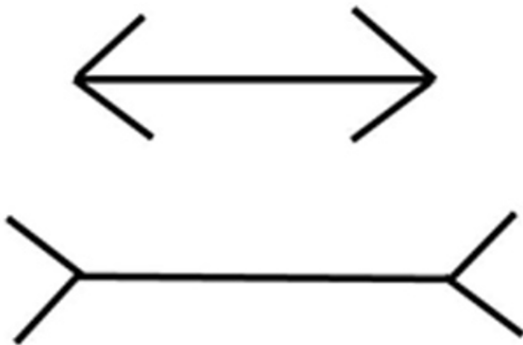
Optical Illusions!



This is a classic optical illusion named after Ludimar Hermann who discovered it in 1870. This is a variation of the Hermann Grid where black dots appear and disappear at the intersections of the gray lines. Interestingly enough, if you cock your head at a 45 degree angle the effect is reduced (but not eliminated).



Also known as the Ebbinghaus Illusion, there is still a debate in psychological circles as to the exact mechanism and implication of this effect. Essentially, the orange circle on the left appears to be smaller than the one on the right although, in reality, they are the same size.

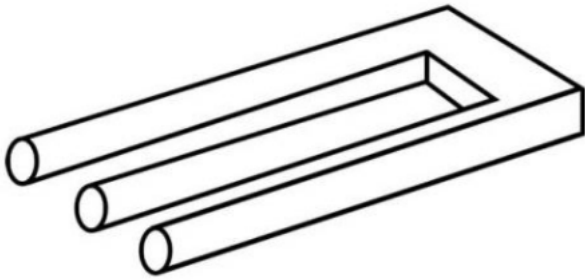


Which line appears the longest? For most people, the line with the fins of the arrow protruding outward appears to be the longest while the line with the arrow fins pointing inwards appears shorter. While your eyes might tell you that line in the middle is the longest, the shafts of both lines are exactly the same length. First discovered in 1889 by F.C. Muller-Lyer, the illusion has become the subject of considerable interest and different theories have emerged to explain the phenomenon.

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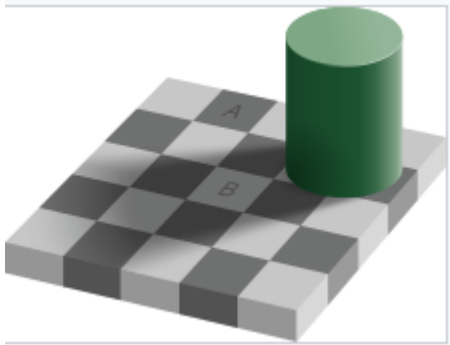
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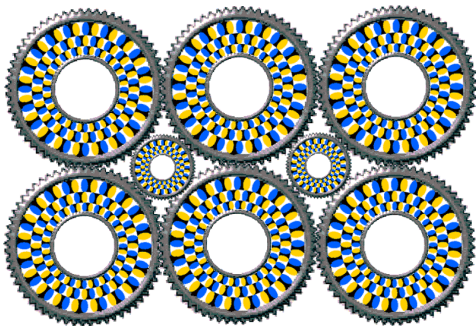
The Impossible Trident Figure was created by D. H Schuster, an American psychologist, in 1964. The Impossible Trident is an impossible figure (or impossible object or undecidable figure): it depicts an object which could not possibly exist. It's impossible for the Impossible Trident to exist because in order for it to exist rules of Euclidean geometry would have to be violated. For example, the trident appears at one end to have merely two prongs, but at the other end to have three, simultaneously.



Can you see a musician in this image, or a woman's face? Our brains make a decision between the negative and positive light in this simple illusion. The musician is a silhouette, facing sideways and playing what appears to be a saxophone. The girl's face is facing forwards and is starkly lit, with the eyes, nose and mouth in shadow. The woman's nose and mouth are the musician's fingers as he plays. The top of her head is fragmented, making it difficult for our brains to work this out and we might see the prominent nose of the musician instead.



The image depicts a checkerboard with light and dark squares, partly shadowed by another object. The optical illusion is that the area labeled A appears to be a darker color than the area labeled B. However, within the context of the two-dimensional image, they are of identical brightness, i.e., they would be printed with identical mixtures of ink, or displayed on a screen with pixels of identical color. To check cover image with piece of paper with holes cut only over those two squares!



When we fixate on a pattern, it momentarily remains on our retinas as an after-image. One theory is that small, involuntary eye movements cause this ghost image to overlap with the image on the page. The result is what's called a moiré effect: similar, repetitive patterns merged together at slightly different angles, creating a rippling effect. I enhanced this effect by adding two high-contrast colors, blue and yellow.

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