Design for Life Stereoscope Mk III

The Design for Life stereoscope was originally designed for use with Hidden Depths, a set of stereo photographs taken by Jacques Henri Lartigue and published by Design for Life. It was designed to bring the immersive experience of a Brewster style stereoscope for transparencies to the viewing of print images.

This Mk III version of the viewer has all the great features of the original:

- it is economical, lightweight and robust
- its top quality optical acrylic lenses give a clear distortion-free image
- the polypropylene construction presents a bright image completely free of shadows and other distractions
- the septum (separator between the eyes) ensures that even beginners see a stereo image immediately - no crosstalk or 'ghost' images

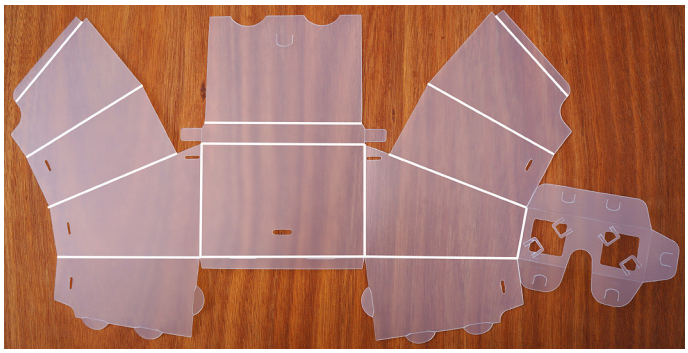
Plus, in addition:

- a higher quality polypropylene and stricter control of dimensions give the viewer a new 'precision-engineered' feel
- a wider card aperture allows the viewer to be used with standard postcard-sized 6" x 4" (15 x 10cm) prints such as those produced by the Loreo camera
- it has stronger and more reliable lens holders.

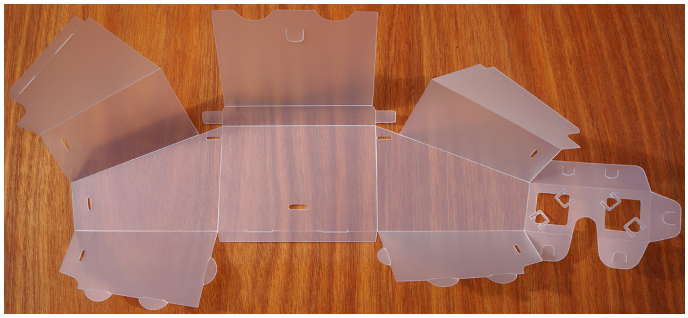
The original received rave reviews – see www.designforlife.com/reviews.htm – but this one is even better!

Viewer Assembly

You have a more or less flat sheet of polypropylene, like this:

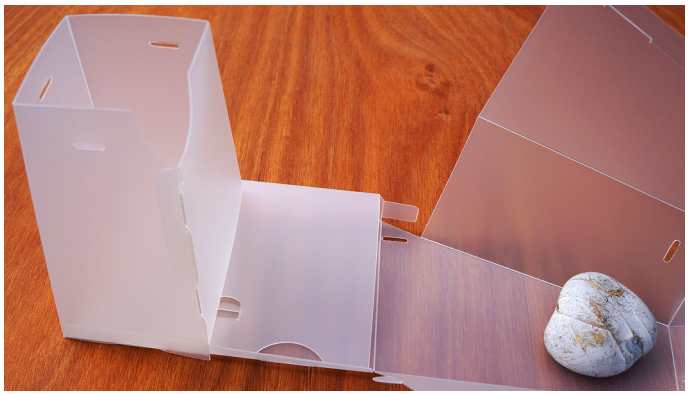


Flex it along the white edges shown, folding it back upon itself a couple of times in both directions. You will end up with something like this:



Fold the central flange vertically upwards and the big flap over and up to it, clipping the central tab through the slot to keep the flap in place. Like this:

Wrap the left hand lens tube round, fold it up vertically and clip the three tabs at its edges together – twice on the sides and once at the bottom. Push each tab through its slot one end first, slide sideways, then push the other end through. You will end up with this (minus the pebble):

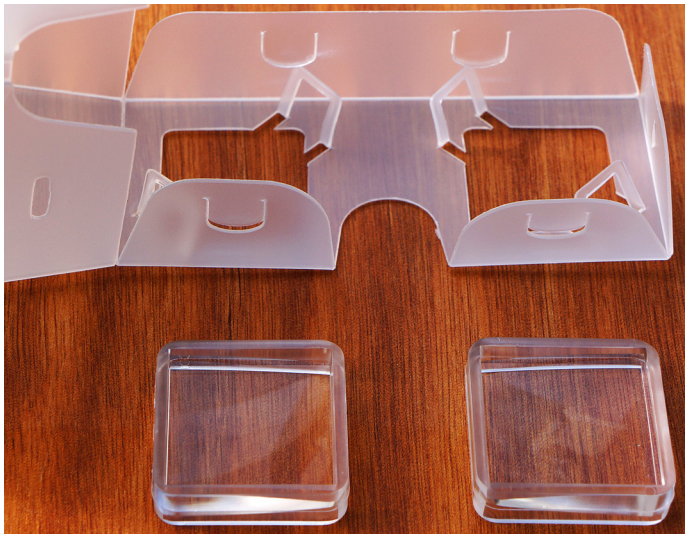


Note that not flexing the edges in Step 1 will make this tube much rounder – you need right angle corners and flat sides for the best result.

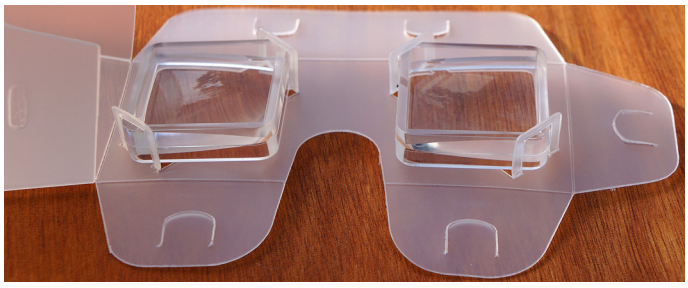
Repeat with the right hand lens tube. You will now have this:

Fold the 3 flaps around the lens plate, and the four 'goalposts', downwards ie towards the base of the stereoscope, as shown here, and orientate the two lenses as in the figure, with the thin edge of both prisms in the centre, towards the user's nose.

Note that subsequent photos only show the flaps and lens hangers unfolded for visibility; it's easier in practice to fold them out *before* the lenses are mounted.



Maintaining the orientation, clip the right lens (left in the figure) in position, pushing the two 'goalposts' firmly over the corners so the lens is held tight. Repeat for the left lens, to give:



Fold the lens plate over the body of the viewer, clip its five tabs and the two tabs on the front of the base into the body of the viewer, and you will have:

Make sure everything is snug and square, then slip in a card, face the light, and you should have a bright clear image in lifelike 3D.

Happy viewing!

Notes

1 If you should have any problems viewing, obviously the first action is to check carefully against the photos that the viewer has been assembled exactly as described.

If it has, the most likely problem is that the lenses are not correctly oriented. Check again that the narrow edge of the prism is inwards as shown in Fig 6.

If it still doesn't work, ask someone else to try it: if they have no difficulties, you may have to resign yourself to viewing in mono. A few percent of all people cannot see 3D in this way at all, and there's always a chance you're amongst them. Ask your optician!

If all else fails drop us an email, and we'll try to advise further.

2 It is possible to mount the lenses on the *outside* of the stereoscope rather than the inside by bending the 'goalposts' outwards rather than inwards. If you're slightly long-sighted the extra 10mm or so between the lens and the card can make for a more comfortable viewing experience.