Minitransparencies as Teaching Aides

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Science teachers are continually searching for means of presenting information and concepts in science. For several years the author has been making minitransparencies. This paper will outline procedures for making these.

Minitransparencies of this size are more easily stored along with other 2 x 2 photographs. They also can readily be put in a slide projector, with other photograph slides eliminating the use of an overhead projector. Transparencies made by this method can be shown in a fully lighted room.

Prior to production of minitransparencies, an 8½ x 11 ditto carbon is ruled off into twenty squares approximately 2″ x 2″ or more accurately 4.6 cm x 4.6 cm. Use of the ditto carbon allows practice sheets and final copy sheets (Fig. 1), Photo of layout, to be inexpensively produced. The finished illustration will fit into a Kodak 2 x 2 Ready Mount.

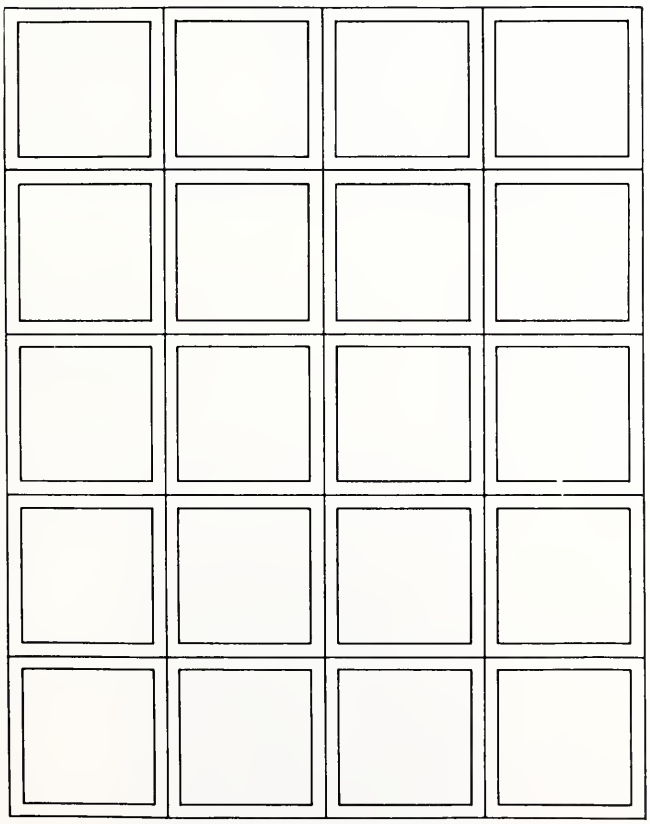

FIGURE 1. *Photo of layout.*

Illustrations may be drawn with pencil, ball point or a Rapid-o-graph drawing pen for greater clarity (Fig. 2) Photo of Sketches.

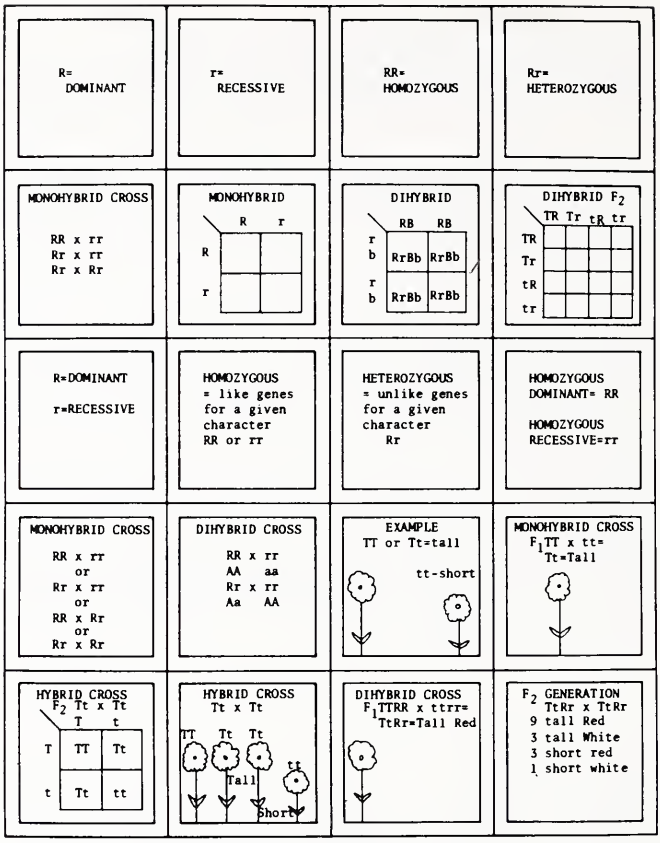

FIGURE 2. *Photo of sketches.*

After the rough sketches are drawn on the ditto copy sheets they can be copied on transparency film. Using a 3M Dry Photo-Copier Model "107" or other copier. The author uses Dual Spectrum transparency film 3M type 628 (Fig. 3). The intermediate-sheet is removed from the finished transparencies.

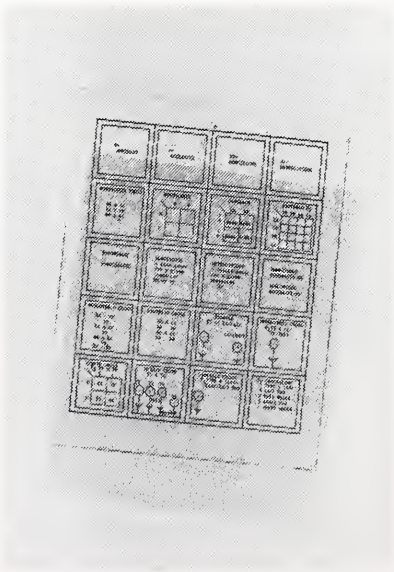

FIGURE 3. *The intermediate-sheet removed from the finished transparencies.*

The sheet of finished transparencies may now be cut along the outer margin lines of the illustrations, and each minitransparency is ready to be sealed in the ready-mount holder. The minitransparency will slightly overlap the adhesive surface. Close the ready-mount and apply heat with a tacking iron or any common household electric iron. After the transparency is sealed in the mount, rotate it until it is upside down and mark it or number it in the upper right-hand corner. The slide can then be used in any 2 x 2 slide projector (Fig. 4). The final product ready for projection.

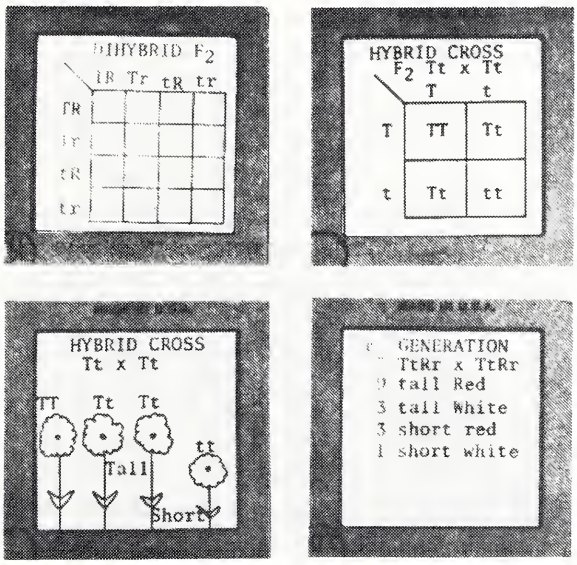

FIGURE 4. *The final product ready for projection.*

Slide projection by this means is very inexpensive when compared to conventional methods, presently about 6 cents per illustration.

This idea has served the author well in presenting concepts to students in beginning biology and botany courses as well in methods courses for student teachers. Once you have tried this method you will realize the unlimited potential for this technique.