

Polarization



Purpose: To demonstrate that light can be polarized using polarizing sheets.

Location: room 146, shelf P3 (also, a box of small polarized sheets)

This demo can be used to illustrate the fact that ordinary white light is composed of electromagnetic waves. Two polarizing sheets transmit light fairly well when their polarizing directions have the same orientation (left photo), but they block most of the light when their polarizing directions are perpendicular (right photo). There is also a box of small polarizers for student use. They can be used to look out the window at skylight and reflected light to see how they are polarized and how polarized sunglasses prevent glare from shiny objects and water.