

Polarization



Polarizer Sheets

Purpose: Demonstrates polarization of light and Malus's Law.

Use the three large polarizer sheets to show the class the basics of polarized light. Rotating one polarizer in front of another, you can show how the transmitted light is extinguished when they cross at 90° .

Once the class understands what is happening with the two sheets, place them in the rack (crossed). Now place and rotate the third sheet between them. The surprising result that light will now pass through (middle sheet at 45°) the stack should make them sit up and wonder. You are all set to derive the traditional three-polarizer problem, which gives a deeper insight into what a polarizer actually does.

Note:

Extra Equipment: None

Location: Shelf C4