# Lights & Shadows: Creating The Illusion

Example #1     Example #2
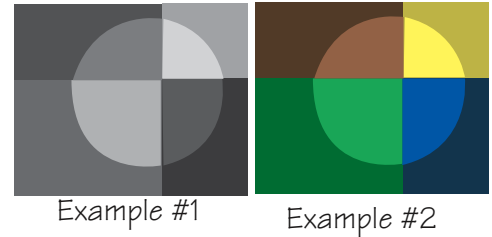
**In what way does the illusion of a white spotlight (Example #1) differ from an illusion of a white veil? (Answer at bottom of this page.)**

Exercise #1: Create the illusion of a white light on a set of varied hues and values. As an added option to creating graphics in Adobe Illustrator, make a final illusion by printing out the colors and cutting them to fit into a paste-up display version.

The illusion may involve a spotlight effect, a cast shadow, or both. Refer to Examples at right.

PROCEDURE: (Only suggestions)

1. Observe a set of randomly selected colors under the condition of a white spotlight.

2. Create a visual illusion of this phenomenon, using an "Illustrator" generated color matrix. This matrix must include the original colors in light as well as arrays of each color with black. This example provides two color options for the shades.
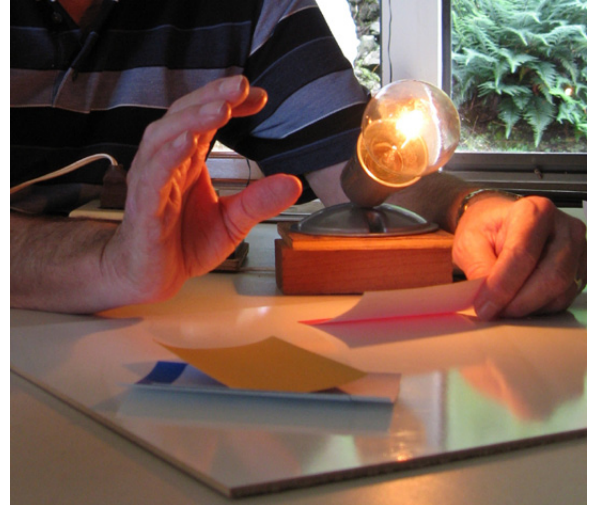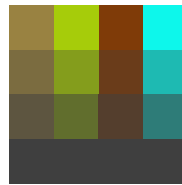
Note: This is a real piece of cardboard. ☞

This is only an example. Use your own shadow producing cutout.

**Some Helpful Hints:** If you are creating an illusion similar to that in Example #4, first cut out the actual image that is creating the shadow. Place that image on a set of colored papers and shine a white light from an angle which throws a shadow across all four hues. Place a piece of tracing paper over the colors and trace both the shape of the actual cast shadow and the shape of the colors it covers. Use this drawing as your template for cutting your paper shapes.
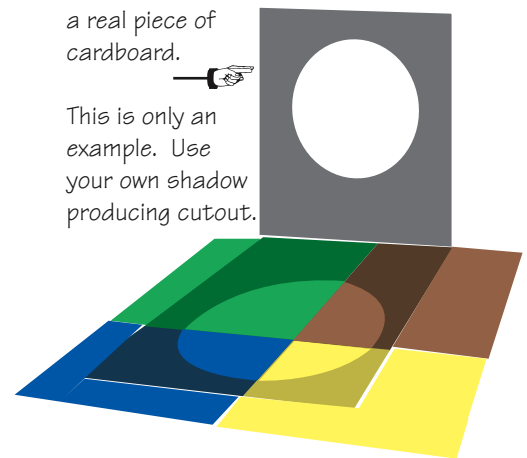
Example #3

*Answers: Light and shadows are similar to films and veils in the following ways: 1. When any color is illuminated by a light, it will always appear lighter (veils do the same.) 2. When a shadow falls over a color, it is similar to a film. It will always darken the hue it's over. Unlike a veil, however, the color which is not in the light will not remain the same, for it becomes a shade. It must become a shade, that is contain some blackness. This will not occur when a color is veiled. REMEMBER THAT SHADOWS ARE GRAY FILMS!*

Example #4

Note: The value contrast must remain the same for all colors in order to maintain the illusion that all colors are under the same light. Even the gray shadow maintains this contrast.

See additional explanation of "white light" attributes on separate handout.

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