ABOUT US...

The term "silhouette" was derived from the name Etienne de Silhouette (1709-1767), a French financial minister under King Louis XV. Silhouette was so frugal that the name became synonymous with the word "cheap." Since Shadow portraits were an inexpensive alternative to the more costly forms of portraiture, such as painting and sculpture, the art form became known as "portrait à la silhouette" or simply put, "cheap portrait."

WHAT IS A PANTOGRAPH?

A pantograph consists of four rods arranged in a parallelogram and joined at the points where the rods intersect, with pivoting hinges. Tracing an image with a stylus inserted at one position in the device, causes a pen at a second position to move in tandem, reproducing the image in perfect proportion. Historians have credited Christoph Scheiner (1575-1650) with inventing the pantograph, but Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519), various ancient Greeks, and others used pantographs or similar devices long before Scheiner's time. Over the centuries, the pantograph has been improved, forgotten, and re-invented several times.

Basically, it looks like this!

What a cool gizmo!

HOW TO MAKE A SILHOUETTE PORTRAIT

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution's patriotic education mission is to reaffirm and instill in others faith in the principles of liberty and our constitutional republic while honoring our patriotic ancestors who gave us our freedom and constitutional form of government...

Our Genealogical Research Library is open Mon-Fri 9:30AM-4:30PM and the 3rd Saturday of each month at 9:00AM - 4:00PM

The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution 809 West Main St. Louisville, KY 40202 www.sar.org

The Eighteenth Century Selfie
YOU WILL NEED:

- Fairly dim room with bare wall
- BRIGHT flashlight
- Large (1x4") white paper
- Masking tape
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Pantograph
- Black paper
- Off-white colored paper
- "GLUE"
- Table/workspace

2 Buddies

(Three people total)

Paper Frame (optional)
Or leave un-framed if you want to frame it later in a real frame.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Tape large white paper to wall
2. Have Buddy #1 hold flashlight and cast profile onto paper
3. Have Buddy #2 trace profile
4. Remove paper from wall and tape down onto table/workspace
5. Tape black paper to the left of white paper
6. Use pantograph to reduce image

* You did it! Now get those scissors and cut it out
* Glue your silhouette onto off-white paper
* Frame it! Or don't!
* I make a great gift!

Now switch so that your buddies have a turn!