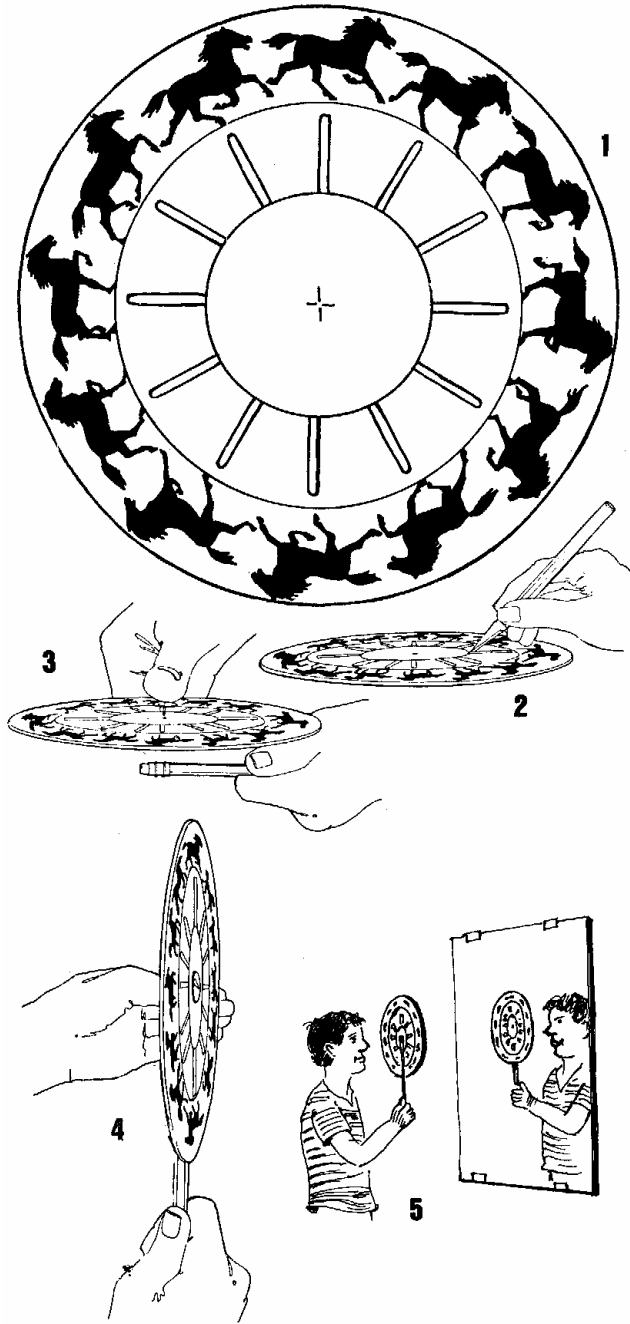


THE PHANTASCOPE



The Phantascope or 'Magic Disc' was invented in 1872, by a Belgian physicist J.A.F. Plateau. It is supposed to be the first moving picture machine. The design of the Phantascope is nothing more than a cardboard circle with a series of equispaced slits. The Phantascope can rotate about a pivot mounted on a handle. On the other side a set of sequential pictures are placed between slits. When the device is placed in front of a mirror and viewed through the rotating slits, the pictures give the viewer the impression that they are moving.

Trace the pattern in Fig (1). Glue it on a cardboard. Now cut the twelve slits in the centre with a short knife. Fig (2). Attach the pencil handle to the Phantascope by pushing a thumbtack through the centre into the eraser of the pencil. Fig (3). Make sure that the pencil is on the blank side of the cardboard. Now your Phantascope is complete. Fig (4).

Stand in front of a mirror, holding the Phantascope so that the pictures face the mirror. Twirl the edge of the disc with your finger. Do not twirl too fast. Watch through the viewing slits as the images become a moving picture. Fig (5).