



MikuBox: Pseudoholographic projection box

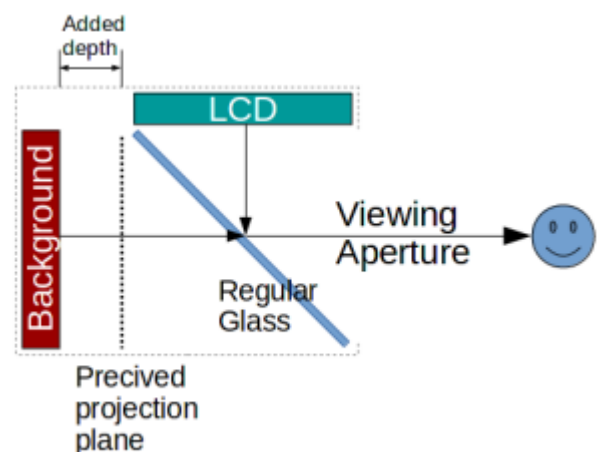
This project uses the [Pepper's-Ghost](#) effect in a medium-sized form factor to create the illusion of a projection standing in free space.

A black wooden box houses a LCD-Monitor and a RaspberryPi.

A glass plate is mounted at 45° angle to reflect the image of the monitor in the top of the box. Scrap PCBs serve as a background.

Principle of Operation

The „Pepper's Ghost“ effect, is based on mixing light from a hidden (here LCD) and a „normal“ (here Background) source. It has been used in stage plays since the 19th Century by temporarily illuminating a room not directly visible by the audience. This added partially transparent objects or actors „ghosts“ to the visible stage. In this setup an LCD provides an overlay animation added to a fixed background.

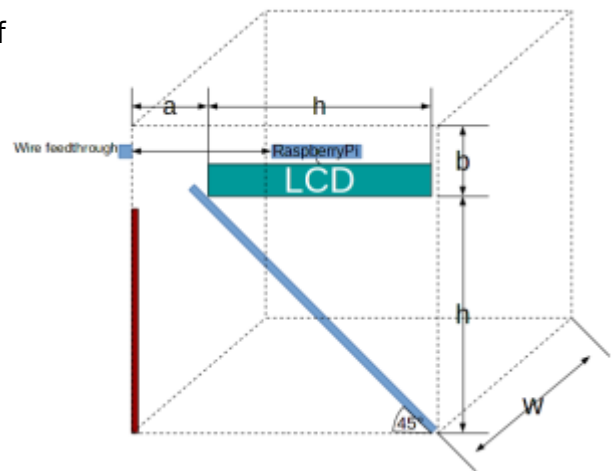


By choosing the box dimensions right, the light path from the background to the viewer is made longer than the path from the LCD. The projection is thus perceived as freestanding in front of the background instead of on it. This causes two 2D layers to be perceived as a 3D scene.

Because the mirror effect of the glass can only add light to the scene, but not remove it, the background may shine through dark parts of the animation.

Construction

The MikuBox is constructed around an off-the-shelf 21.5", PC Monitor and is made out of MDF. The Monitor of choice uses a VA-LCD Panel to provide better black levels than standard TN-Panels. It also does not suffer from IPS-Glow. It is however view angle dependent. Ideally an OLED-Panel or other self illuminating pixel display should be used, but these were unobtainable at time of writing.



The dimensions of the box are derived from the monitor. It is important that some depth (a) is added to the box compared to the distance between bottom and LCD (h). This distance will be the precived distance between background and projection.

The background is made out of unused scrap PCBs with dark blue soldermask. It is illuminated by stray light only. It is not necessary to use a background, but it will improve the 3D effect. A patterned background is recommended as it will make the parallax effect more obvious. A background too bright will shine through dark parts of the projection, so it should be avoided if such content is to be projected.

Extra height (b) is added to house the electronics and cables. A RaspberryPi 1 is internally connected to the LCD monitor via HDMI. Ethernet, Analog Audio and Power are routed to the back.

The Monitor rests on the side walls of the box. These are made from two layers of MDF. The inner walls have a height of (h) and the monitor is placed on these. The outer side walls of the box have the full height ($h+b$).

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