Floating Ghost

How to see the floating image

1 Set the viewing slits

The sleeves can shift in transit. Hold the gold cup at the bottom of the cylinder still and slide the upper tab sideways around the cylinder. Watch the vertical gaps between the two black sleeves. Stop when the gaps are as narrow as you can make them while still seeing light through them.

2 Light the picture

Place the display on a table and aim a desk lamp down through the open top. Angle the lamp until the picture inside is evenly lit. Subdued room lighting helps the ghost stand out.

3 Turn the handle and look across the cylinder

Bring your eyes level with the picture and turn the handle. Look through the slits on the side facing you. Move your head slightly until the ghost comes into view. To explore the depth of the illusion, hold a fingertip beside the spot where the ghost appears to float.

Fine-tuning the image

If the ghost looks blurred, narrow the slits. If it looks dim, aim more light onto the picture first. Widening the slits a little will also brighten the ghost, at the cost of some sharpness.