John Berry
Get Wet image Report
Film 4200
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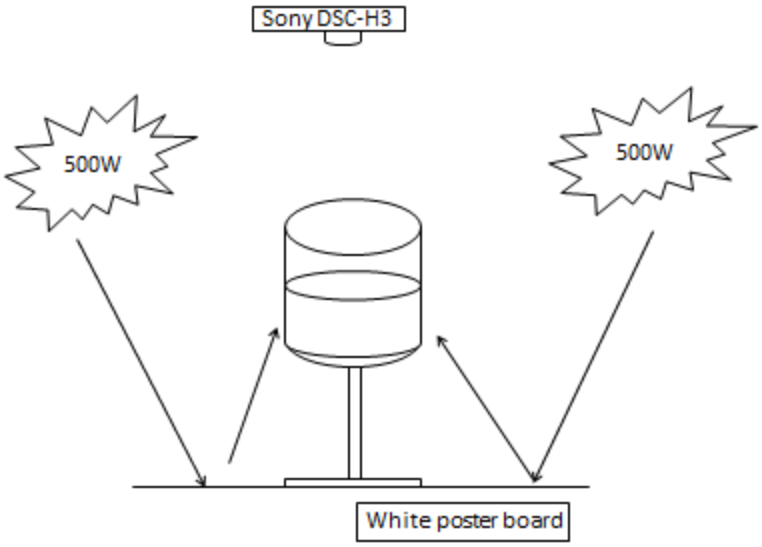
For this get wet image I sought to display the circular motion of a high-viscosity, hand-stirred liquid. Milk was the liquid chosen because it would present a high contrast to many different dyes. The stirring of the liquid did affect the outcome of the image but not in the manner first expected. I originally expected the added dye to follow a circular path around the container and while the photographed phenomenon was different, it was not disappointing.

Using a simple coffee stirrer, whole milk was speedily stirred in a wine glass 2.5" deep. After several seconds of stirring the stirrer was removed and two drops of green food dye were added on opposing sides of the center of the glass. Approximately 10 seconds after the dye was added the result was photographed. The procedure was repeated several times producing only minor variations in each outcome. It is important to consider that the dye did not sink into or mix with the milk. This is due most likely to the milk's high surface tension and the low density of the dye compared to that of the milk. The agitation of the milk is responsible for the dispersion of the food dye over the surface though not in a circular pattern.

As stated before, milk was chosen because of the contrast that would be created with the food dye. The dye was of a generic brand, procured at a local Safeway Food and Drug. The milk was purchased at the same location and was allowed to warm to room temperature before used in this experiment. The subject of the image (the glass) was partially surrounded by white, 2.5' x 3' poster board. White poster board was also placed beneath the glass. The light from two 500 watt halogen bulbs was then reflected off of the poster board background and onto the subject.

It was determined that a vantage point directly above the glass would display the phenomenon most clearly and thus the image was photographed. The photograph was taken at ISO 100, 0EV, f3.5 with an exposure time of 1/50 seconds. The macro setting on the camera was employed and the focal length was 6mm. The final photograph was produced at a resolution of 3264x2448 pixels by a Sony DSC-H3 and was not edited prior to submission. The subject, a wine glass with a diameter of 2.75” fills most of the frame. The extra space on either side of the subject makes the field of view 3”. At the time the subject was photographed, the camera was 1.5’ above the subject.

The image shows an obvious unrest in the milk and a difference in the densities of both the dye and the milk, that causes the dye to remain on the surface. Most likely, a similar experiment conducted with a less viscous and less dense liquid in place of the milk would show the dye moving in a more circular pattern. It would be interesting to see how the dye behaves in water agitated in the same manner and viewed from beside the wine glass rather than directly above it. Also, different results might be produced if the milk were stirred faster, either in a blender or with a magnetic mixer. I like the contrast of this image which was one of the most important parts of the image for me. I believe it adequately illustrates an example of the observed phenomenon and is therefore a successful image.


Sony DSC-H3
500W
500W
White poster board