

Cast Shadows

Art & Design

Constructing where a shadow falls, from the light source and the object.

Two points fix every cast shadow: the source, and the point on the ground below it.

1 Place the light

1

A point in space. Mark it, and mark the point directly below it.

2 Drop to the ground

2

From the top of the object, straight down to its base.

3 Ray from the source

3

Through the top of the object, and onwards past it.

4 Ray from the ground point

4

Through the base of the object, along the ground plane.

5 Where the two cross

5

That is the shadow of that one point. Repeat for each corner.

Sunlight arrives parallel, so its shadows converge only through perspective. A nearby lamp makes them spread instead.