

**FThD2****Optricks Day, Optricks Demos, Optricks Suitcases, Optricks Theme Packets; What are all these Optricks Anyway?**

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**Abstract**

"Optricks" seems to have been coined back in the 1970s by Dr. Murty Mantravadi in Science Today's Series for Young Readers. Recently, it has been applied to outreach tools and activities in his honor.

**Summary**

The term "Optricks" has recently been applied to optics educational outreach tools and activities in Southern California. Collectively, these are helping spread informal science education. The author first came to learn of the term Optricks at the June 2003 Optical Society of Southern California monthly meeting, when Dr. Murty and friends gave a presentation of that title. It was a marvelous evening with many hands-on demonstrations for all the optics professionals to play. The author learned a bit of the history of Optricks and then carried on. The following year, the OSSC & OISC wanted to have a meeting at the Discovery Science Center in Santa Ana, CA to help promote their educational outreach efforts. That desire turned into the first Optricks Day which was reported at last years OSA Forum on Education. Since that time, the Optics Suitcase that was transplanted from Rochester, NY to Southern California has been modified and turned into the Optricks Suitcase full of Optricks Theme Packets. The Optricks Demos are actual science center grade hands-on optics demonstrations / exhibits that are being developed by the OISC, OSSC and the Discovery Science Center. Some of these materials have been used during presentations in cooperation with the OSA / SPIE / NOAO / MESA Hands-On Optics programs in Southern California.

This presentation will describe a few of the new activities from the Second Annual Optricks Day that was held on March 5, 2005. It will also describe some of the developing Optricks Demos to be installed at the Discovery Science Center and the new Optricks Suitcases and Optricks Theme packets. Much of the funding for the Optricks Days, Optricks Demos, Optricks Suitcases and Theme Packets has come from OSA and SPIE and they are to be acknowledged for their contributions to the Southern California Educational Outreach efforts.