

How To Camouflage Books in Times of Internet-Censorship

An Instruction Guide

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Camouflaging Books?!

In times of internet-surveillance, the freedom of speech is endangered. This manual provides the reader with possible camouflage-techniques to hide content from being censored. The manual of course also gives hints how to encode the camouflaged books and how to read it.

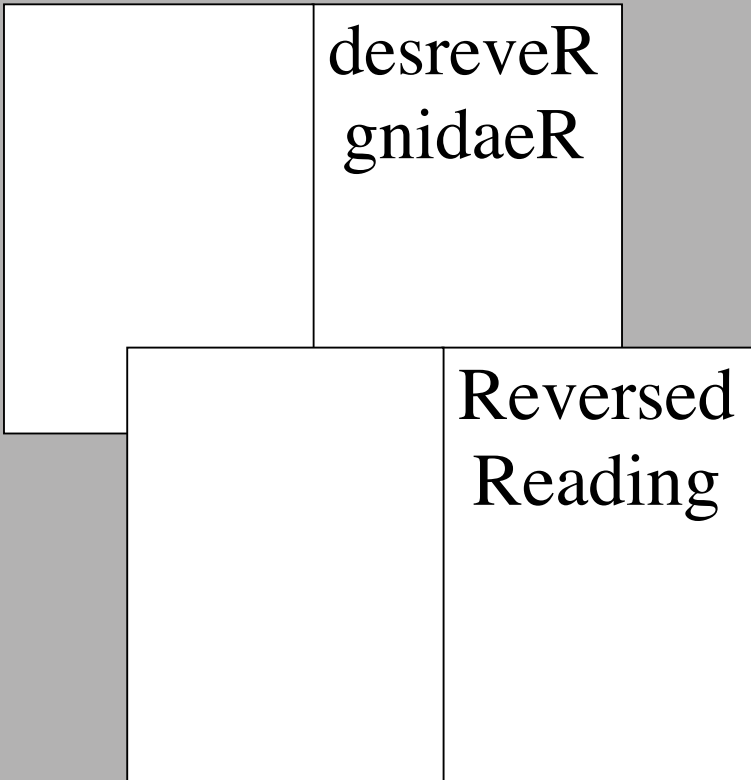
Reversed Reading

There are multiple ways to make the reading experience difficult for people who do not know the key to encrypt the technique.

By spelling and writing every word in a reversed order, the meaning of the words on first sight is difficult. But if you know how to read the words, it gets quite clear [Fig. 1](#).

One suggestion also is to use this technique only for smaller amounts of text, as it needs more time to read. The technique suits typography i.e. on a cover quite well.

[Fig. 1](#)



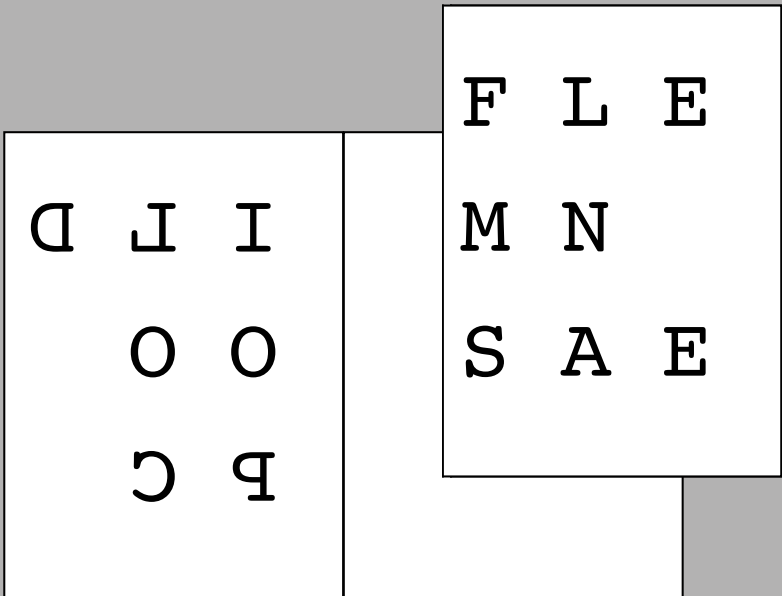
Filled Monospace

This Camouflage-Technique requires a monospaced typeface for the texts, because we want to use the fact, that every letter has the same width.

This method plays with the shine-through appearance of paper. We want to generate a code of letters, which is impossible to read by just looking at the uploaded PDF-file on the computer-screen and in the preview. Therefore we first start with filling the front side of the page with text, but we leave every second letter white. It gets impossible to read.

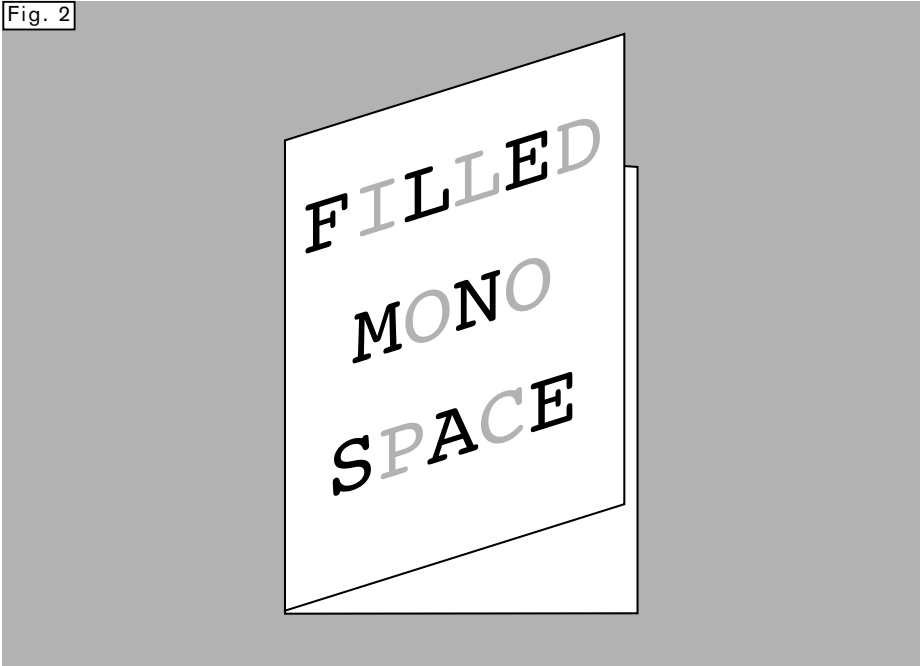
We make sure, that the text is left-aligned. This is important, because every letter stays at its place. Copy the same text-block to the back side of the same page. Afterwards we mirror the textblock that we just copied. We repeat the same step for the backside, but

Fig. 1



we are alternating the rhythm [Fig. 1]. We start with leaving the first letter blank and continue with the third letter and so on. The empty space on the front side of the page should now be filled with the missing letters from the backside, when you hold the page against the light [Fig. 2].

Fig. 2



Decoding Duplex

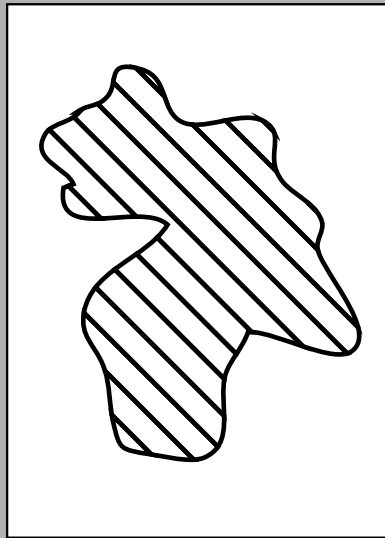
As images are much more graphical, they are also getting more easily banned or censored. It needs a special treatment for camouflaging them.

The images have to distract from their original context and content. They need to be decoded first. We want to place a mirrored image on top of another image. This is represented in the illustrations through the form, which is placed on a piece of paper with

the filled pattern. This leaves a chaotic appearance of the original picture and makes it more difficult to read. The mirrored image, that has been placed on top of the original image needs also to be multiplied. It adds more chaos, which is good for the camouflaging effect.

The color of the images play also a very important role. Tests and experiments showed, that coloring the original image green and the mirrored one red works best. Coloring the images can be done in Photoshop through color-separation.

Fig. 1



Having the same picture just with the color green [Fig. 1](#) and a mirrored version of the photo in red [Fig. 2](#) placed on top of the other one lets the original value and context of the photo disappear. Every photo needs to consist of only one color, as mentioned above. The mirrored red image should also not be opaque, but multiplied [Fig. 3](#). By holding a red foil onto the page, the red and mirrored

Fig. 2

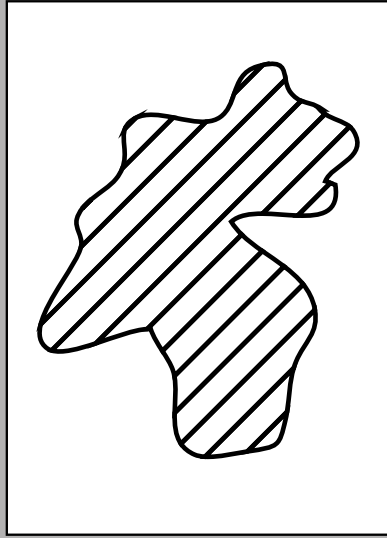


Fig. 3

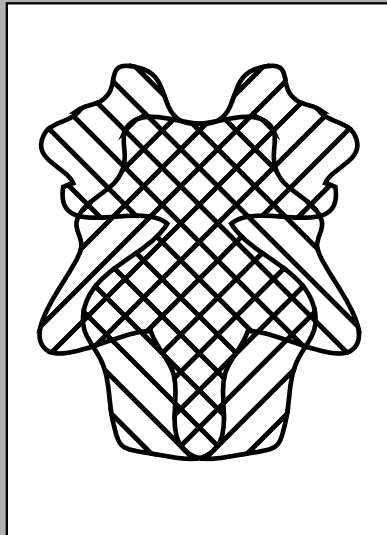
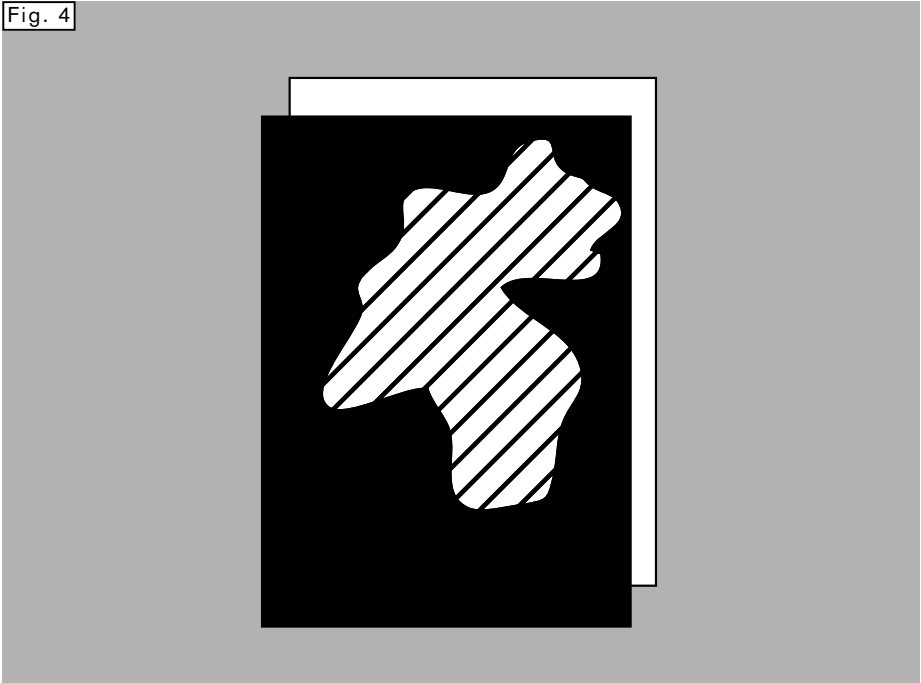


image disappears and we see the real value and censored image [Fig. 4]. The overlapping parts of both photos are becoming brown. This visuality helps to decode the pictures' original content and blur the graphic explicitly into a more chaotic appearance.

Fig. 4



Experiments have shown, that green and red color-separated images work best for camouflaging them with this technique. Useful to know are therefore also the RGB codes of the two colors.

Green: R=6, G=200, B=30

Red: R=251, G=13, B=30

Wolf In Sheeps Clothing

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For reading the book, you just have to follow the decreasing page-numbers. They will guide the reader where to start reading the sensitive content. To make it even more understandable, you can also invert the colors for your sensitive content. For example white typography on black background, different font-choice, etc.

