

Technical Note

Using a Grid System for the Documentation of Bloodstain Patterns

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Abstract: Bloodstain patterns can be documented by establishing a simple grid using strings. Once the grid has been established, photographs are taken of the individual grid units. Reconstruction of the bloodstain pattern can then be made using the developed photographs.

Introduction: When doing a bloodspatter interpretation, there is no replacement for actually being at the scene for the interpretation. This method is intended to assist in the documentation of the scene. This documentation can then be used to reconstruct the scene for an investigative briefing, review by a trained bloodspatter expert, or courtroom testimony.

A grid can be set up using strings and photographs are taken of each grid. The photographs can then be developed on the appropriate sized paper and the scene reconstructed.

Equipment:

- A 35mm camera with a 50mm lens and flash
- Tripod (Recommended)