THE EPIDIASCOPE

The epidiascope is a type of opaque projector developed in the early years of the 20th century. Epidiascopes can project images of both transparent and opaque images. This quality made the device especially useful in educational circles for most of the century.

The basic functionality of the epidiascope involved harnessing the power of light to create the images. In the earliest models of the epidiascope and other similar projectors, limelight was used as the medium. The light would be directed downward onto an object, creating the image. To focus the light and create a viable image, a series of lenses or mirrors would be used to direct the image onto a screen. While somewhat costly to produce at first, the epidiascope became more affordable as the device was refined. Along with commercial models, low powered versions were produced and marketed as toys for school age children.

By the middle of the 20th century, the typical epidiascope was produced using incandescent light as the source for creating the image. Desktop models of the device were in common use in schools and colleges across the globe. Within a few years, halogen lamps began to replace the incandescent bulbs, providing an even sharper projected image.

The above is an excerpt from http://www.wisegeek.com/what-is-an-epidiascope.htm