

**Category:** Student Work

**Project:** Scales of the Solar System

**What was the challenge?**

The challenge was to visualize an own idea. Being very interested in astronomy I wanted to visualize the real scales of the solar system. This was incredibly hard because the distances in the Solar System are beyond any imagination. How do you explain how great the distances between the planets really are?

**What was the solution?**

The solution was a book about the Solar system 1: 200.000.000.000 with the correct ratio. I choose a line to guide the reader through the book. As he follows the line and stumbles over asteroids and planets, he realizes that the distances grow bigger and bigger the longer he reads. The book has 486 pages, 456 only with the line guiding you. In the end you have to skip over 100 nearly empty pages to "travel" the distances between the outer planets of the solar system. To make the effect even stronger I decided to minimize the Planets and used a fluorescent neon plastic.

**What was the effect?**

By reading through the book you "travel" the solar system in the correct ratio. This gives you a "real" impression of the distances, that no downscalled model or graphic could achieve. It leaves a glimpse of an impression of our universe in it's true form.

Information visualized

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