

Signal Mirror Accuracy!



Many sources will tell you to use a signal mirror - and **one way works especially well**. A signal mirror reflects sunlight - lots of it! I've been told a flash is like a 50,000 candlepower light. It can easily be seen by an airplane pilot, so **DON'T aim the mirror at an airplane except in an emergency**. I once got a pilot to land in an emergency, and he said he saw my flashes very, very well!

The quality of the mirror counts. Shiny steel mirrors are often useless. The best signal mirror is a 3" x 5" U.S. Air Force military surplus mirror* with a sighting hole in the center. **In a pinch, the shiny side of a CD or DVD will work**. None of these mirrors float - as I easily discovered by dropping one overboard.

Using the Air Force mirror* - if you use your right eye - put the back left bottom of the mirror on your nose. Put the back top over your right eyebrow. Stabilize the mirror with your right thumb and forefinger and press your right hand to your right cheek.

For accuracy: *To turn the mirror right and left, rotate the top of your body right and left without moving your head. To move the mirror up and down, move your neck to the approximate up-angle, then flash the mirror by tilting your upper body forward and backward. Your movements will be slow and accurate.*

The Air Force mirror has a bright hole in the center. Move the mirror until you can see the sun. Move the mirror to position the sun spot over your target, and flash it up-down 3 times. With other mirrors, move the mirror until you see the sun's reflection on a nearby object. Stick out your left arm and stick up your left thumb. Get the sun's reflection on your left thumb. Keep your arm stiff and move the top of your body as explained to point the mirror at your target. Flash 3 times. Then 3 more. Keep flashing until the aircraft turns toward you or goes out of sight.

* MIRROR, EMERGENCY SIGNALING, MARK 3 TYPE 2 IS THE MILITARY DESIGNATION.