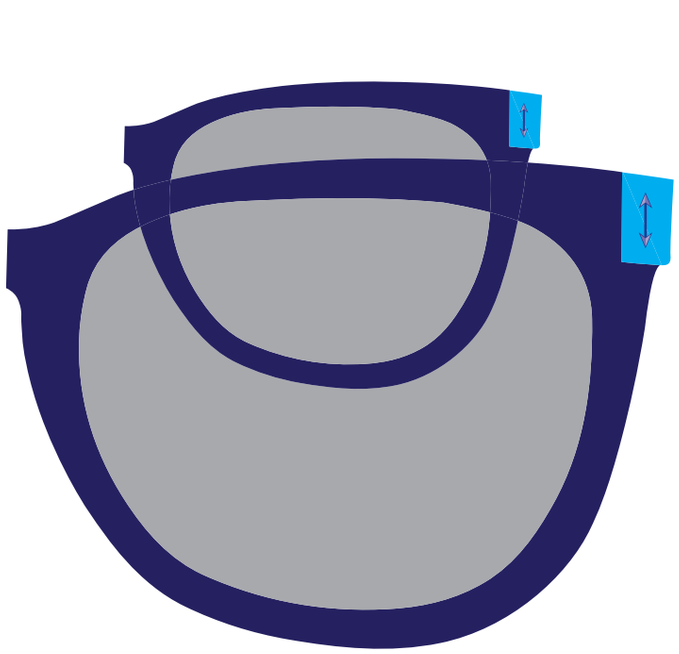
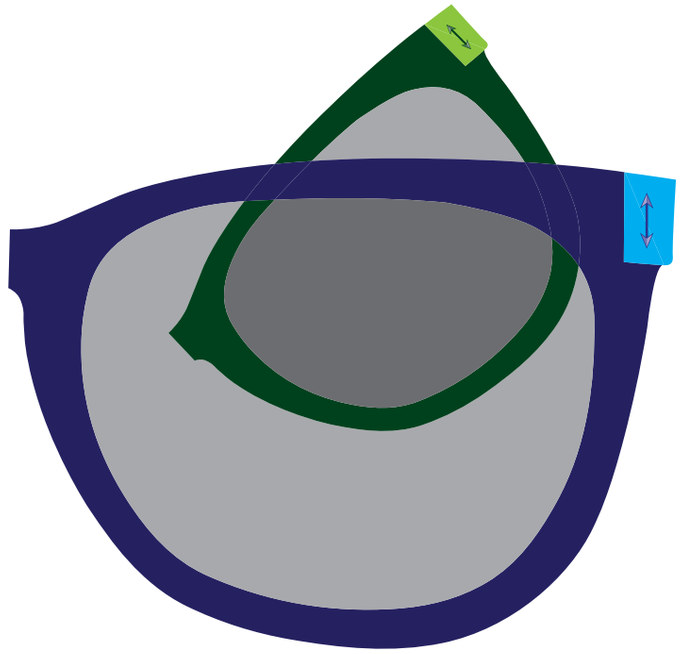
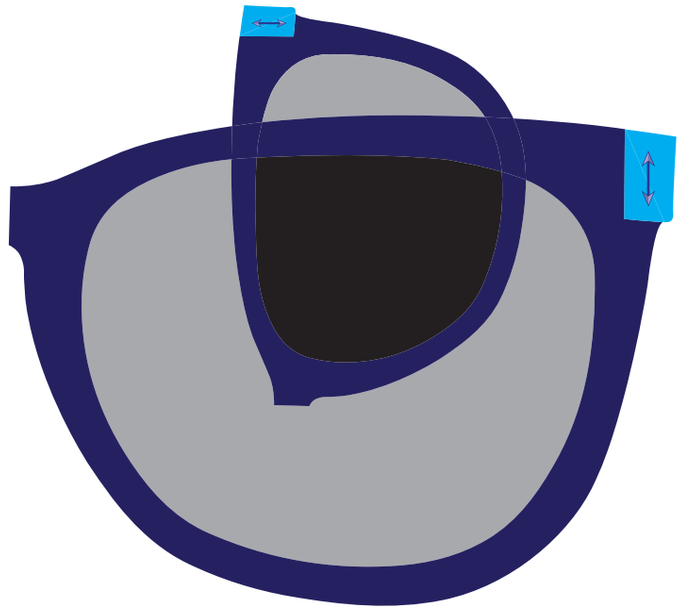
Quantum spooks

Sunglasses



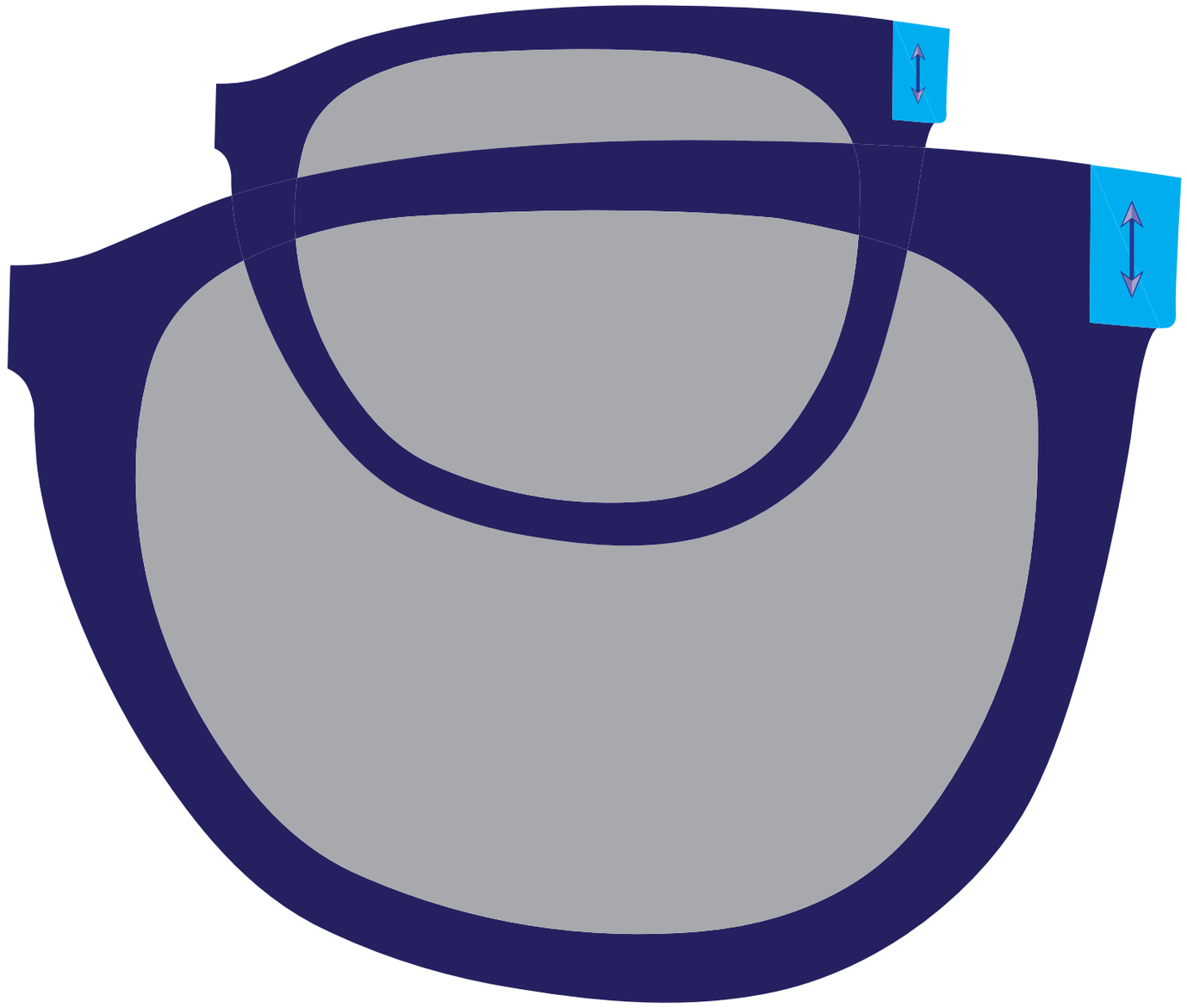




Two glasses

- Half of the unpolarized light (background) makes it through the rearmost glasses. Only vertically polarized light makes it through.

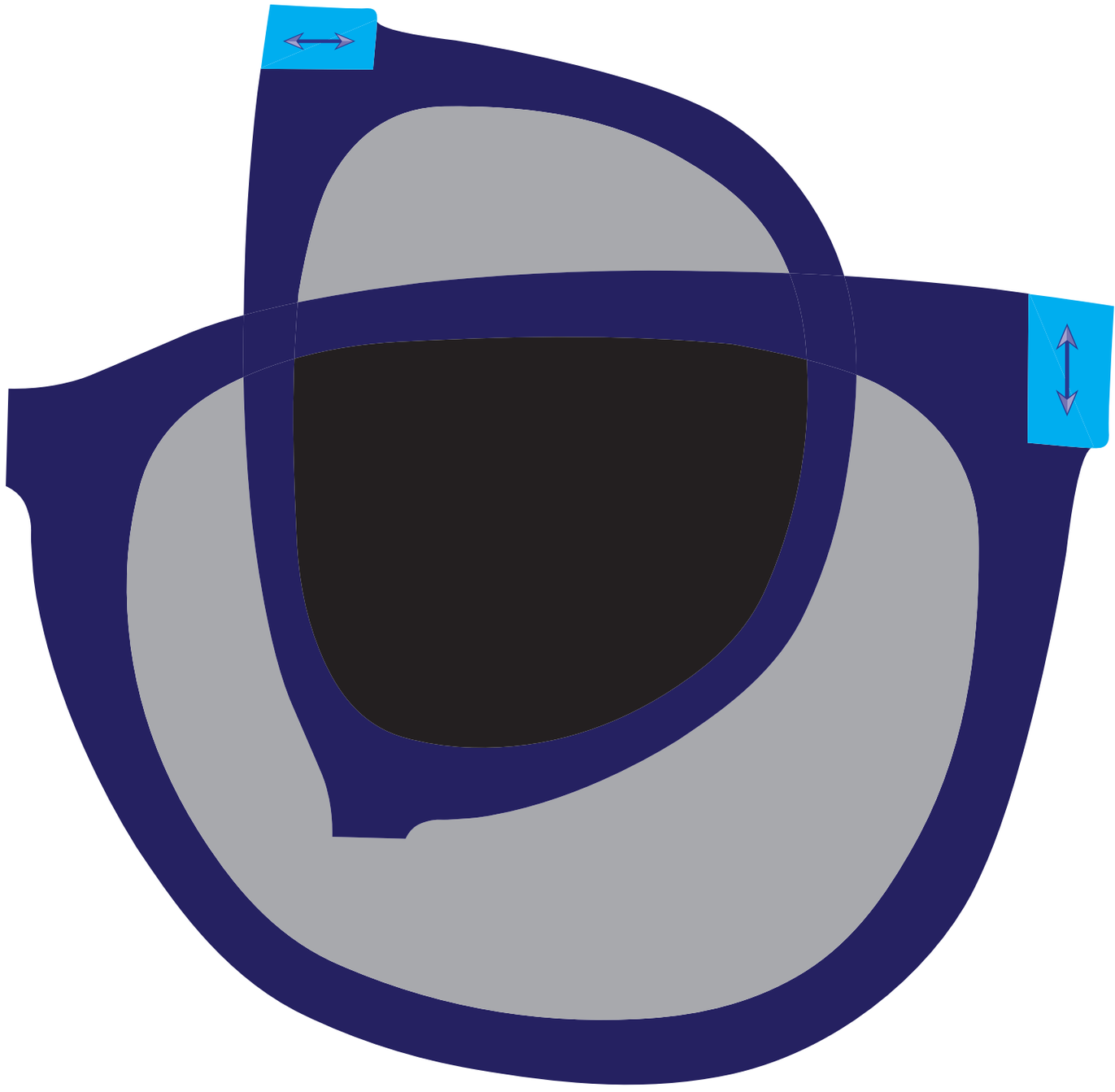
- Since forward glasses only let vertical polarization through, all the light that got through the first pair make it through the second.



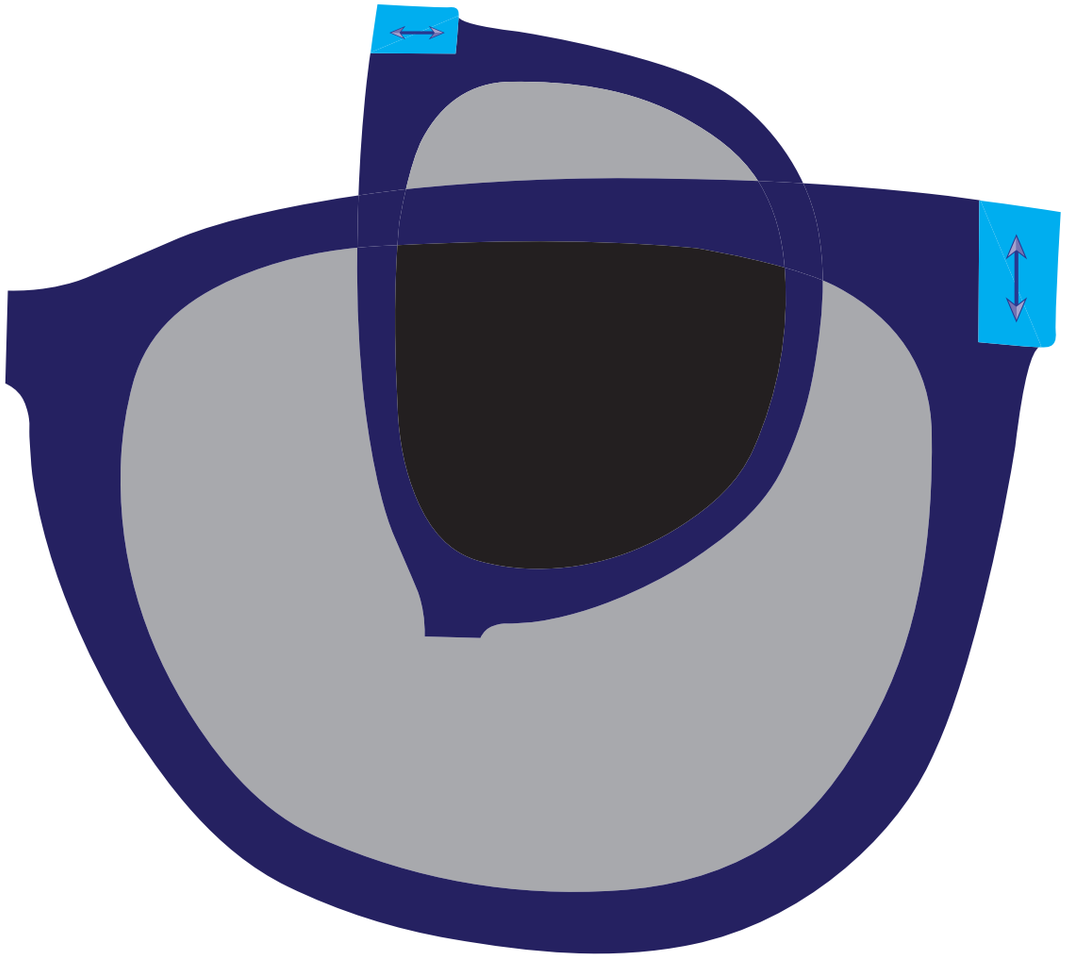
Two glasses

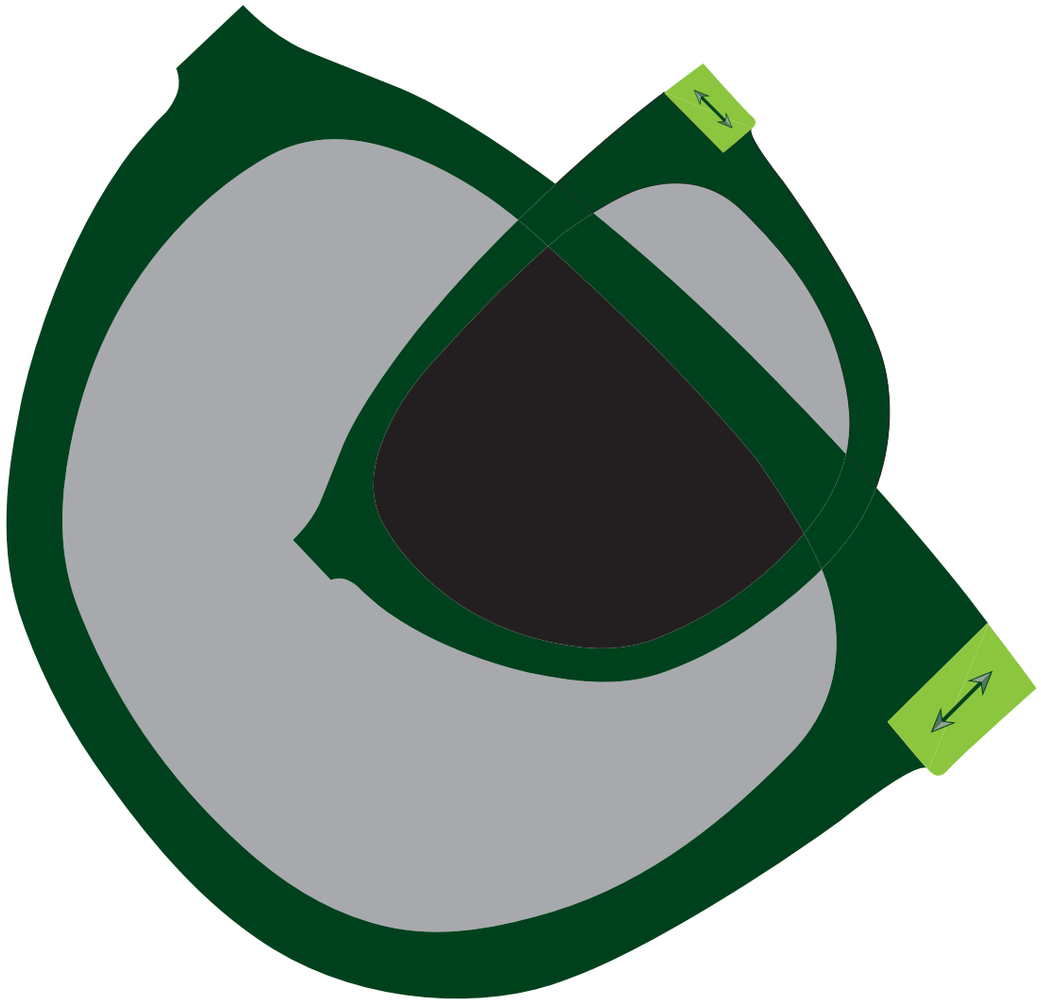
- Half of the unpolarized light (background) makes it through the rearmost glasses. Only horizontally polarized light makes it through.

- Since forward glasses only let vertical polarization through, all the light that got through the first pair is blocked by the second pair.

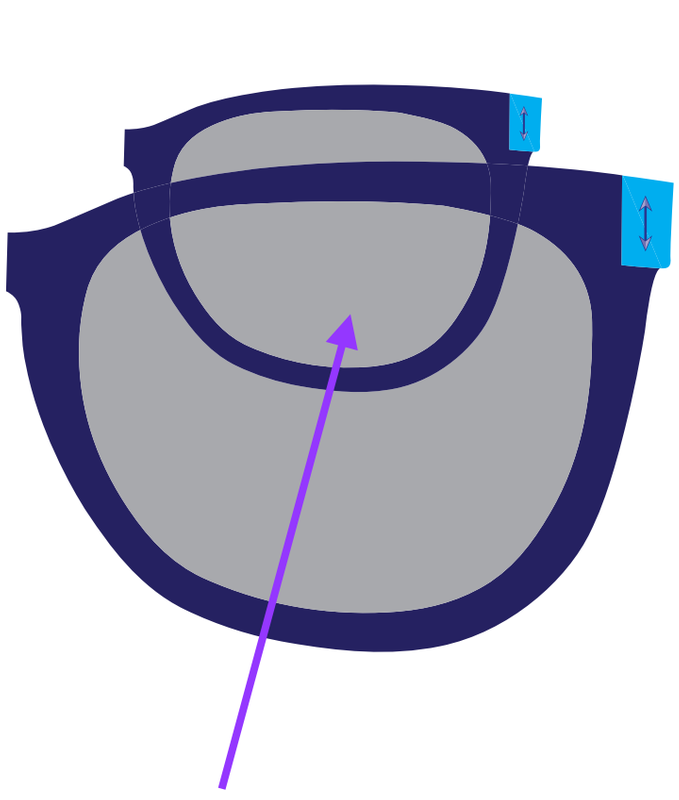


Only relative orientation matters

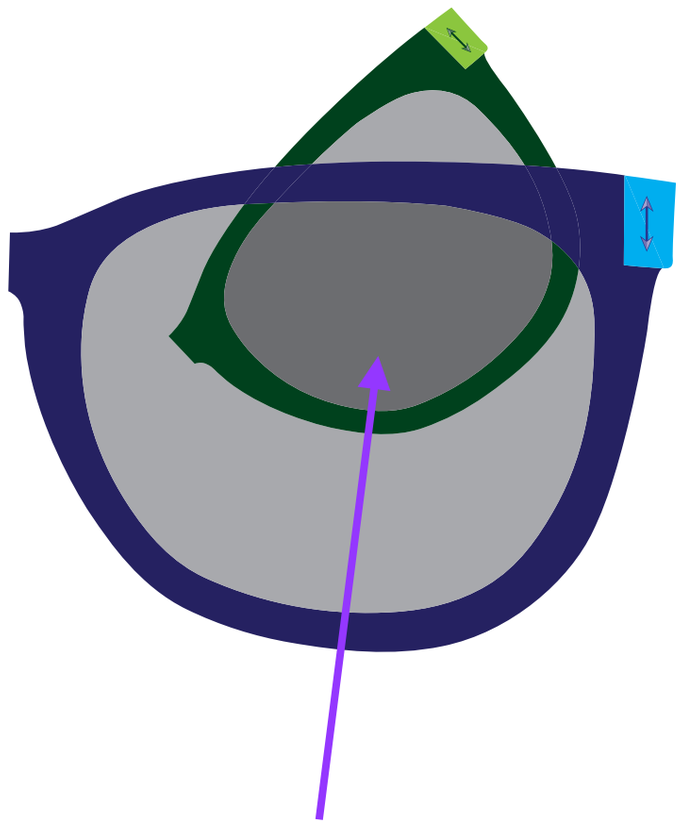




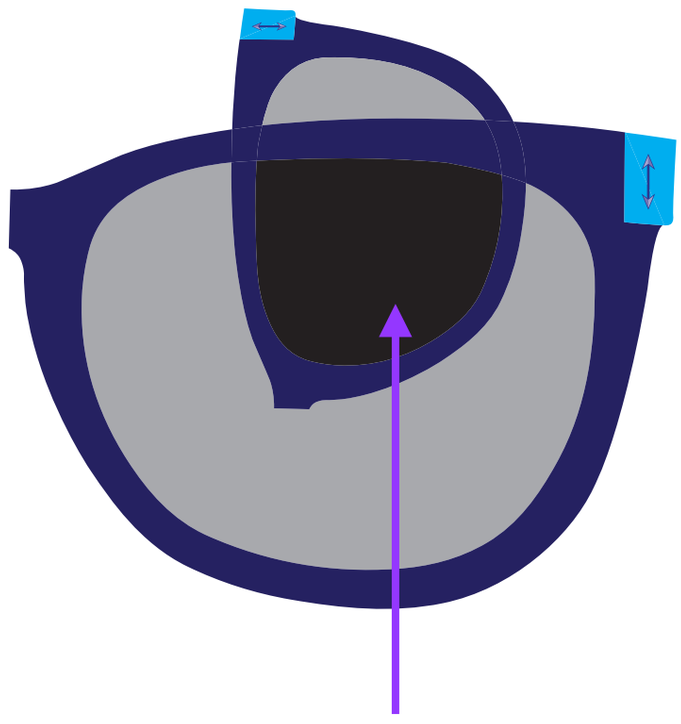
Mixing sets



1/2 * all = 1/2



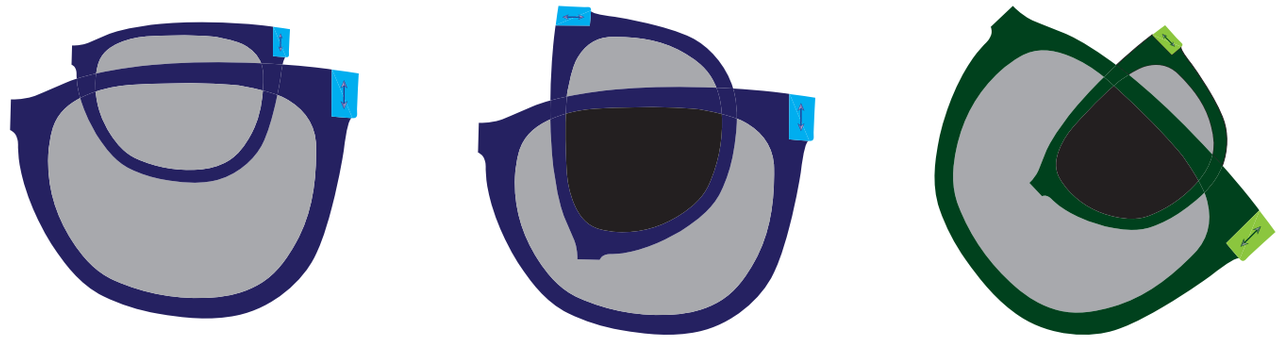
1/2 * 1/2 = 1/4



1/2 * none = 0

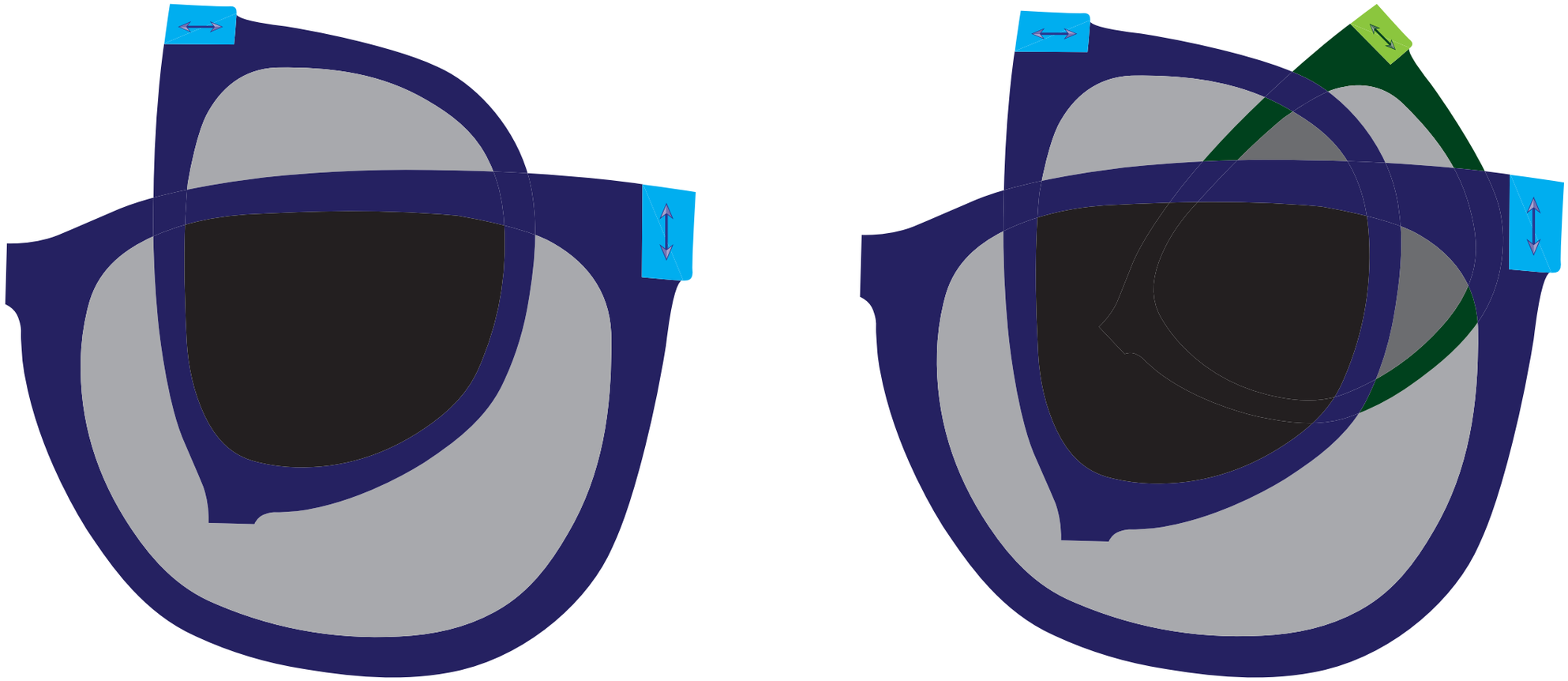
Mixing sets

- Two glasses of the same ‘set’ (frame color) gives either all of light through the first or none.

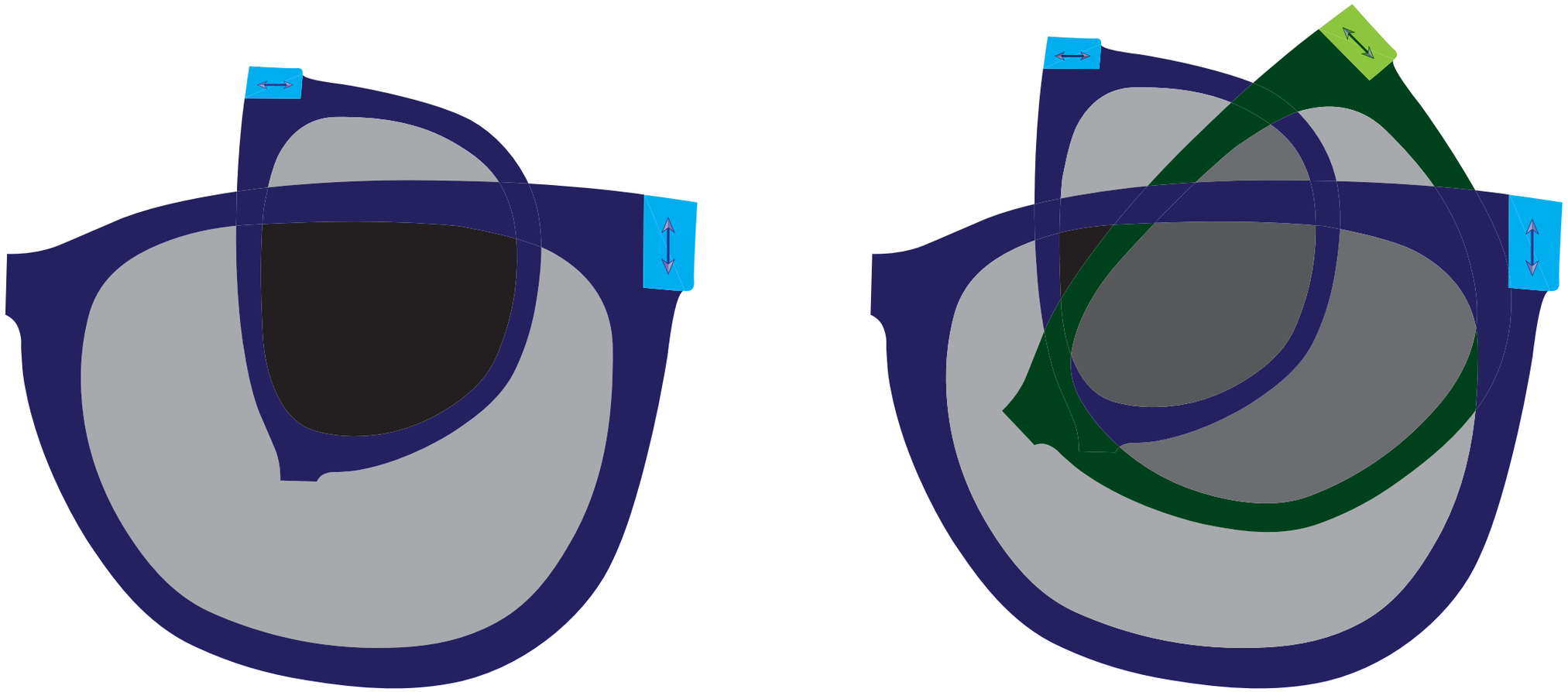


- Two glasses from different sets always gives 1/2 of light through the first pair.

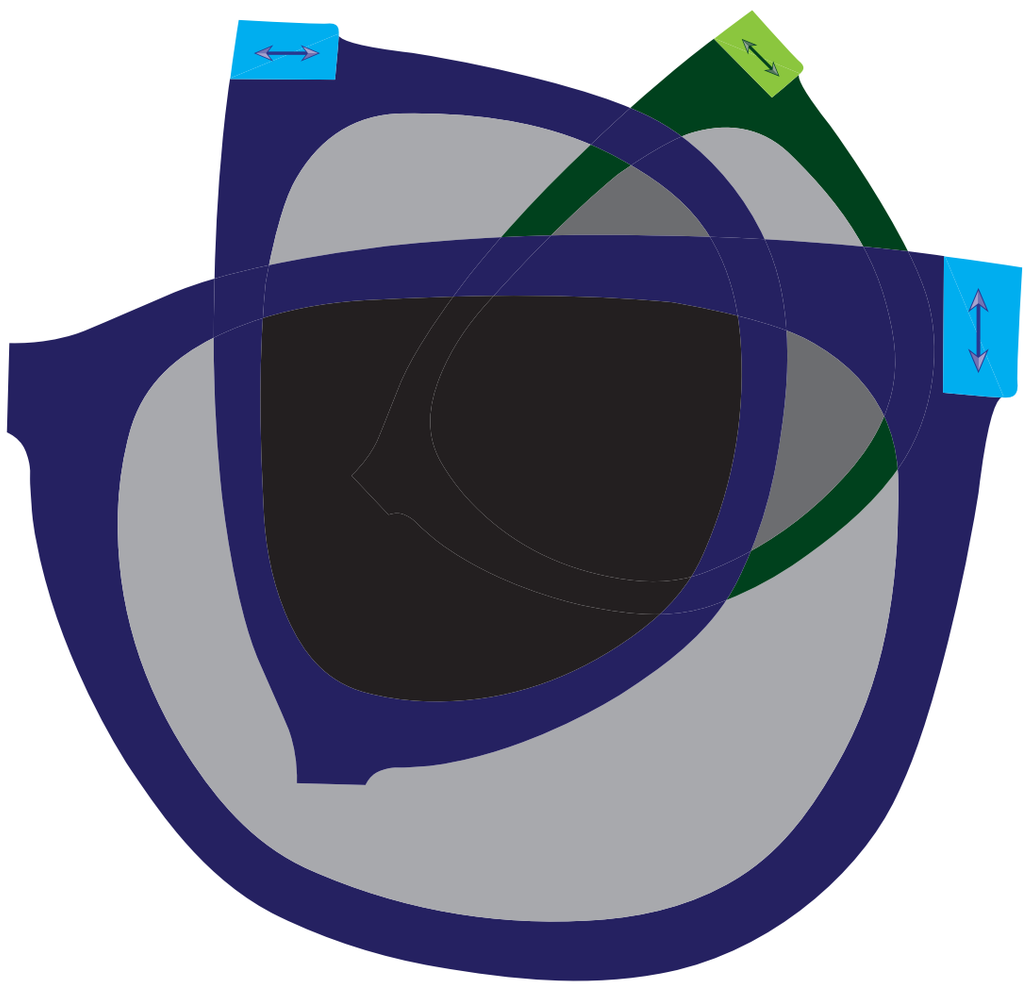
Adding a third pair of glasses

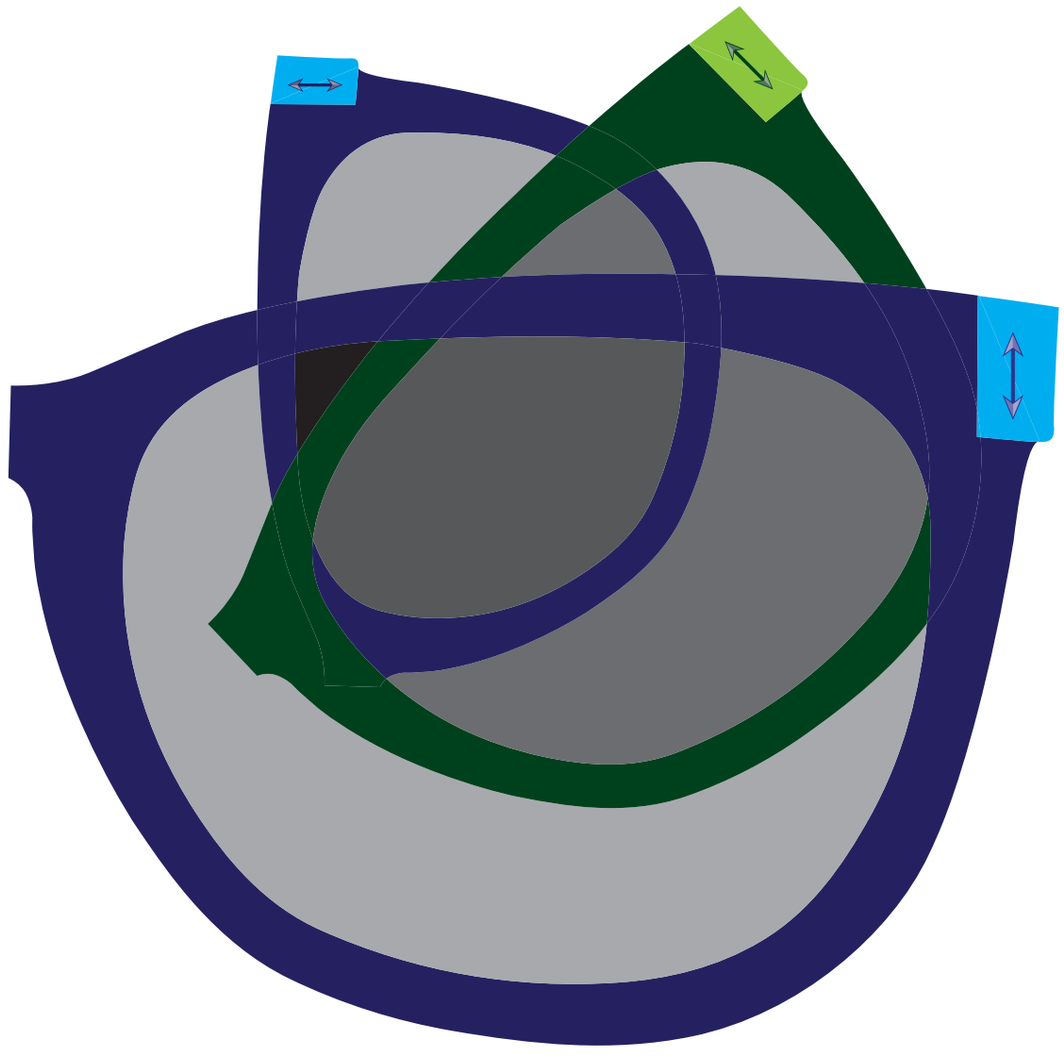


Adding a third pair of glasses



Order matters!

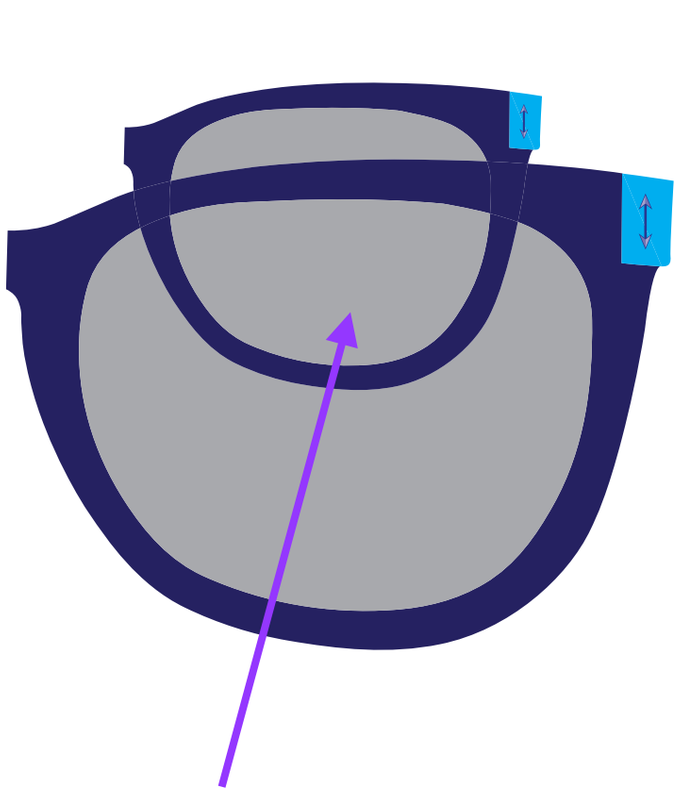




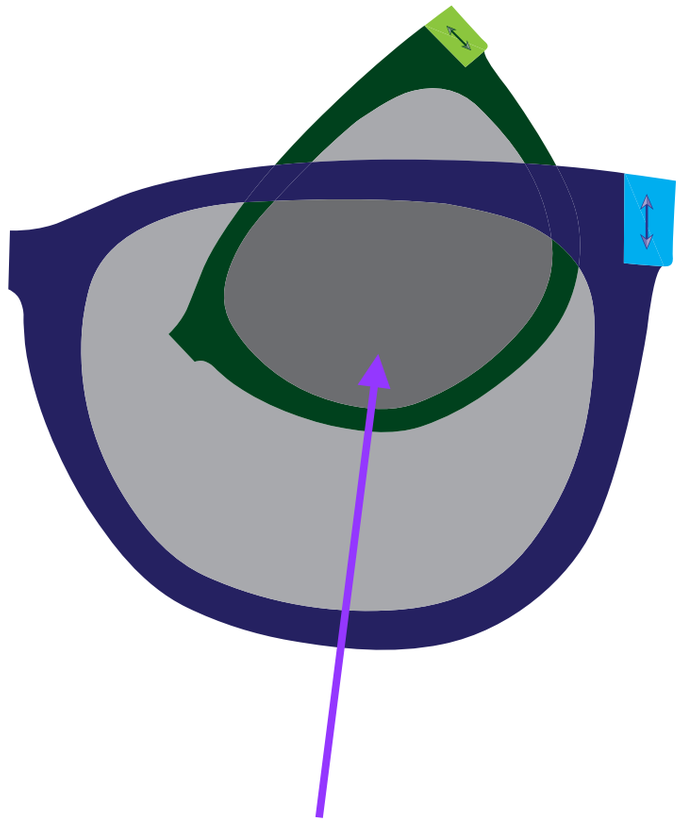
Wearing sunglasses at night

Diane Knutson, International Dark-Sky Association

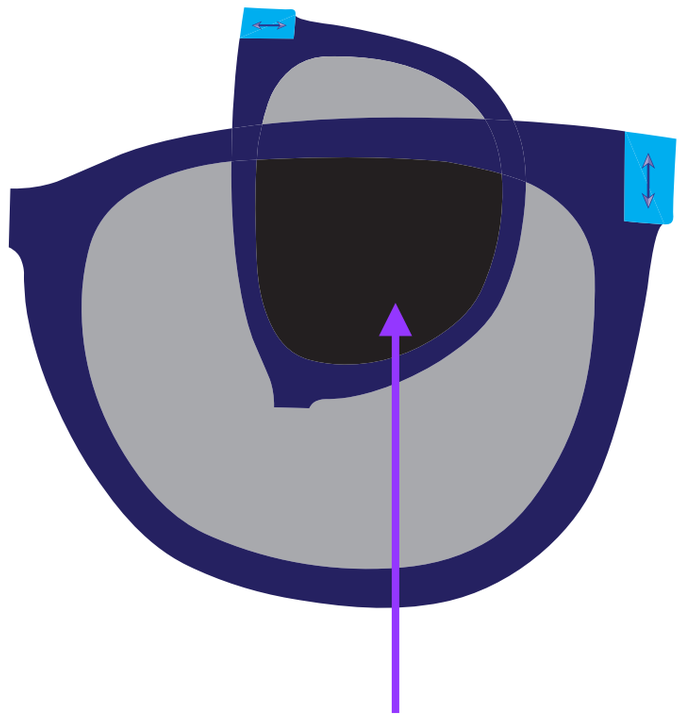
Fraction of photons making it through



1/2 * all = 1/2

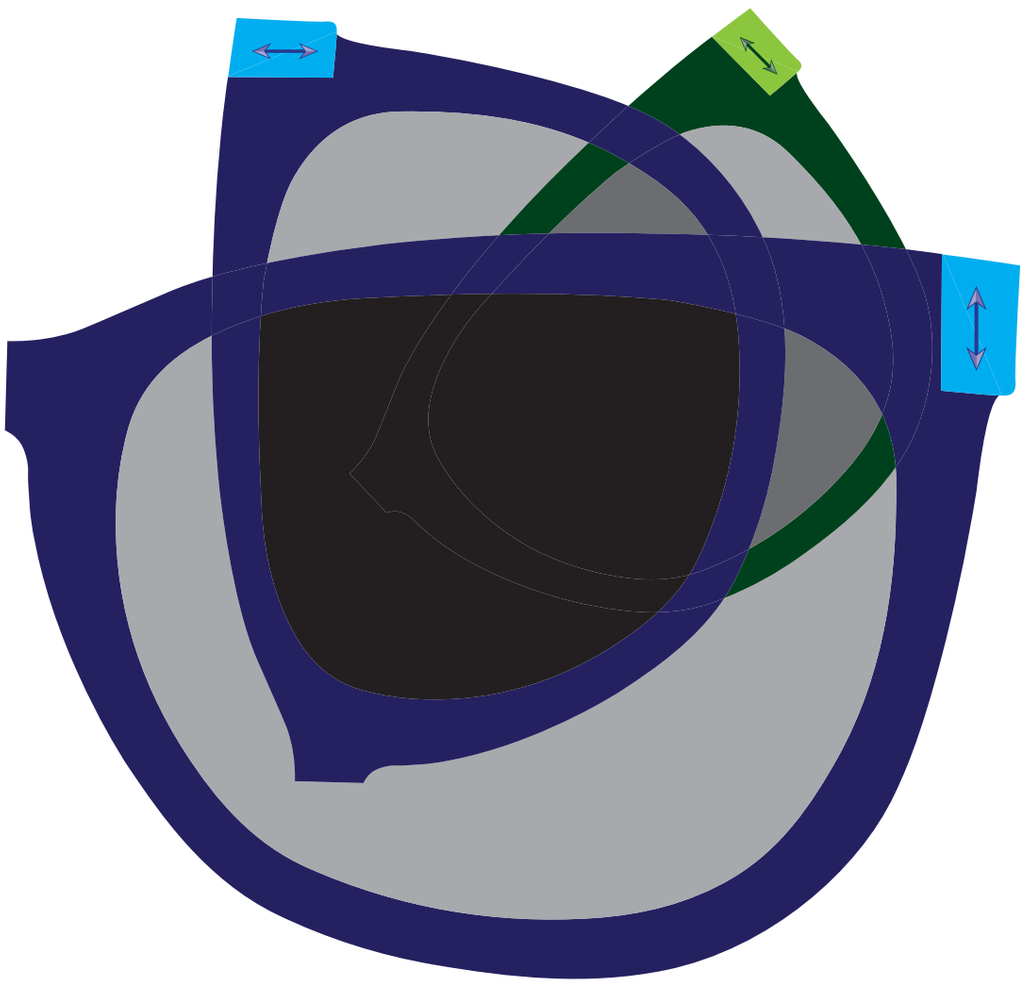


1/2 * 1/2 = 1/4

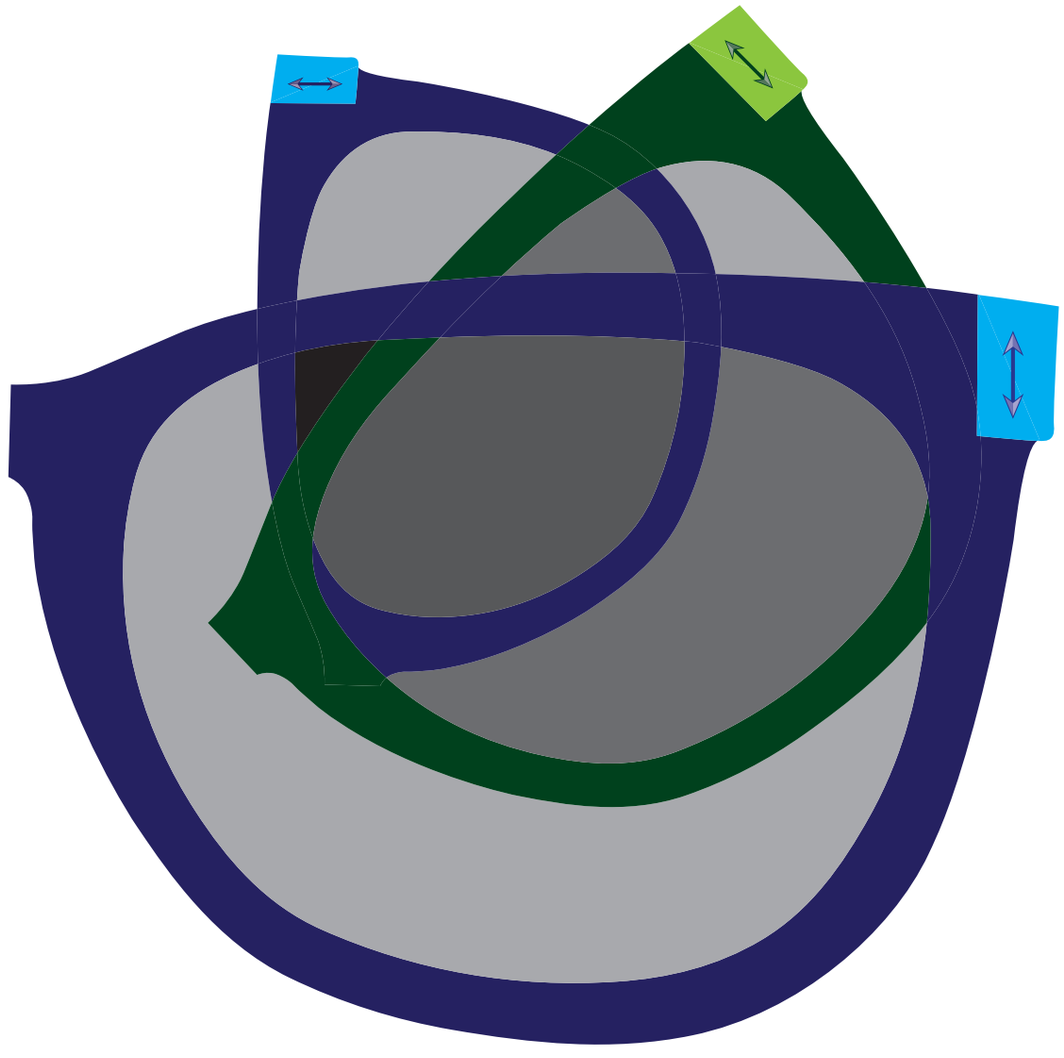


1/2 * none = 0

Fraction of photons making it through



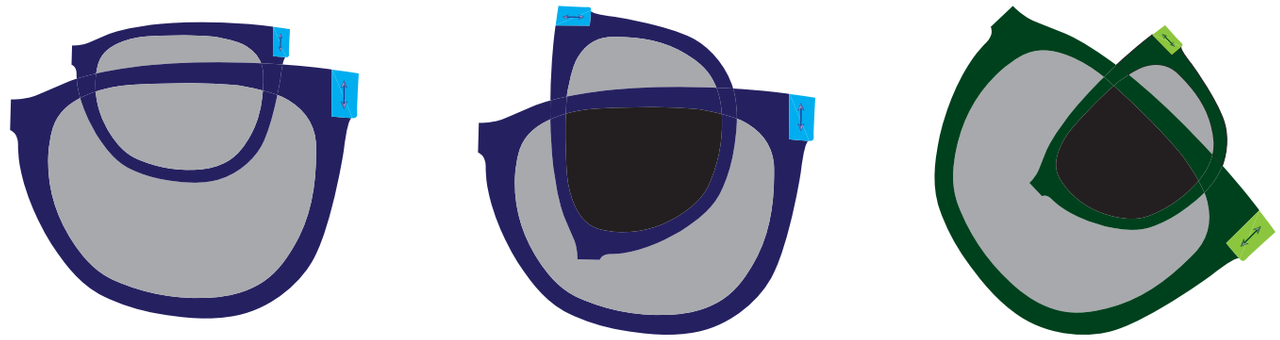
1/2 * 1/2 * none = 0



1/2 * 1/2 * 1/2 = 1/8

Deterministic or Random

- If two glasses from the same set (frame color), whether a photon makes it through the next pair is deterministic (all or none)



- If two glasses from different sets, probability of photon making it through the second pair is *random* (always 50-50)

Deterministic and random

- We've made two sets of glasses (green or blue frame color) that are internally deterministic but mutually random.

- A ***deep*** feature of quantum mechanics