



MAKER JOURNAL

Name: _____

Date: _____

Unit: Electrical Engineering

Lesson: 2

Find 2-3 reliable websites with information on the topics listed below.

Topic	Resource	Notes
Atomic Structure		
Free Electrons		
Charges		
Electric Forces		
Static Electricity		

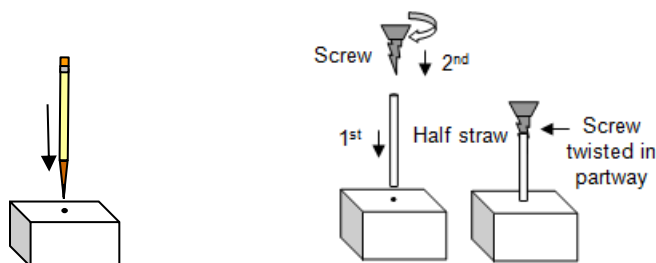
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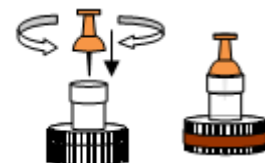
Follow the instructions below to assemble the Static Merry-Go-Round

How to build it:

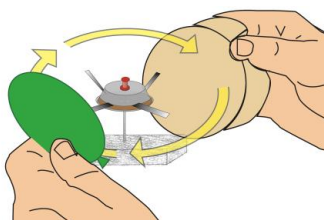
1. Make a small hole in the foam block with a pencil. Insert a half straw into the hole until the straw stays upright.
2. Twist the screw halfway into the top of the straw.



3. Position the tip of a pushpin over the center of the sports cap (right). Slowly push and twist the pin into the cap.
4. Place the thick rubber band around the sports cap.
5. Position the Mylar strips evenly around the sports cap and bend them just above the rubber band.



6. Put the fabric square over the soft foam piece, letting the corners hang over the sides. Place a thin rubber band over the corners to secure the fabric to the foam (right).
7. Put the sports cap onto the top of the screw so that it is balanced (above right). Spin the sports cap, adjusting as necessary.
8. Inflate and tie the balloon.
9. Rub the fabric and balloon together and then position them as shown below.
10. Try rubbing the fabric on different materials and observe the effect on the static merry-go-round. Which materials appear to produce the greatest charge imbalance? What does this mean in terms of the strength of the static electric field produced by each pair of rubbed materials?





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Write and/or draw your observations for the different materials you rub together and test for static charge using the Static Merry-Go-Round device.

Record your observations

First Material Used:

Example: Party Balloon, green

Effect on device:

2nd Material Used:

Example: Plastic container, opaque

Effect on device:

3rd Material Used:

Effect on device:

Hypothesis: Formulate your own hypothesis on the existence of static electric fields that can be investigated for future research.