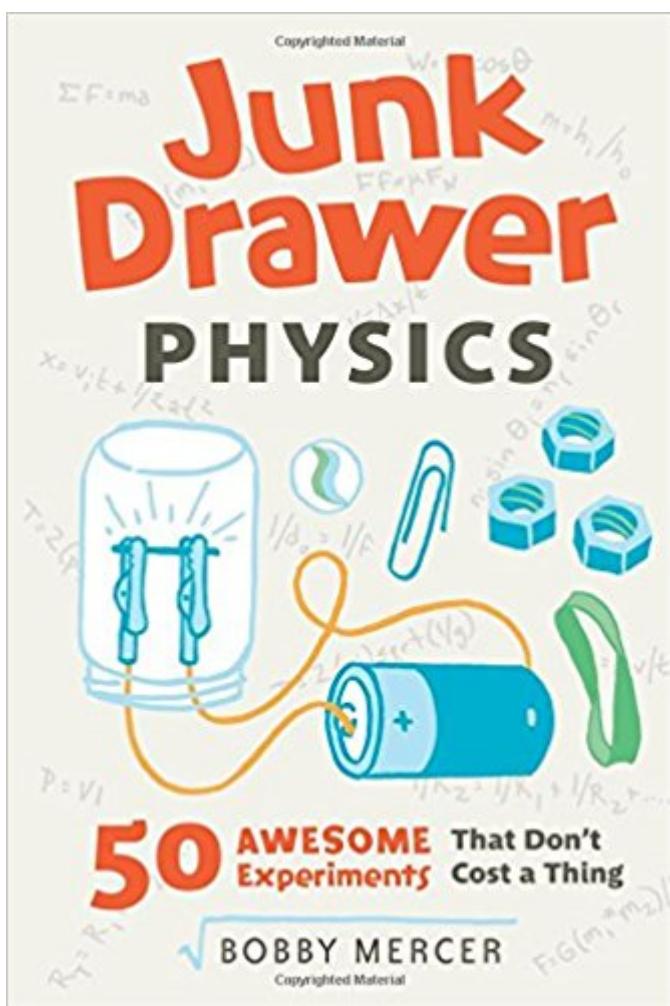


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# Junk Drawer Physics: 50 Awesome Experiments That Don't Cost A Thing (Junk Drawer Science)



## Synopsis

There's not need for expensive, high-tech lab equipment to perform physics experiments—you probably have all you need in your home junk drawer. Turn a plastic cup into a pinhole camera using waxed paper, a rubber band, and a thumbtack. Build a swinging wave machine using a series of washers suspended on strings from a yardstick. Use a cork, string, and water-filled plastic bottle to create a simple accelerometer. Or construct your own planetarium from an empty potato chip canister, construction paper, scissors, and a pin. Physics teacher Bobby Mercer provides readers with more than 50 great hands-on experiments that can be performed for just pennies . . . or less. Each project has a materials list, detailed step-by-step instructions with illustrations, and a brief explanation of the scientific principle being demonstrated. *Junk Drawer Physics* also includes sidebars of fascinating physics facts: did you know the Eiffel Tower is six inches taller in summer than in winter because its steel structure expands in the heat? Educators and parents will find this title a handy resource to teach children about physics topics that include magnetism, electricity, force, motion, light, energy, sound, and more, and have fun at the same time. Bobby Mercer has been a high school physics teacher for over two decades. He is the author of *The Flying Machine Book*, *The Racecar Book*, and *Smash It! Crash It! Launch It!* and lives with his family outside of Asheville, North Carolina.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (15 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #166,230 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Physics #2647 in Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works #2725 in Books > Children's Books > Activities, Crafts & Games > Activity Books

Age Range: 9 and up

Grade Level: 4 and up

## Customer Reviews

This is a really well-written, fun book for kids. There are a wide variety of experiments that you can do, just using some really simple objects found in the typical "junk drawer." That means, for most of us, we can do LOTS of experiments! Each experiment shows you the list of materials you should get from the junk drawer, the steps to perform, useful photos and diagrams, and "The Science Behind It," which explains what is going on. I liked the "Straw Oboe" best. You make that very simply by cutting a slit in a straw. <sup>o</sup> THINGS I LIKED THE MOST <sup>o</sup> The clear, step by step instructions. Very well-written, very concise. <sup>o</sup> The creative ideas. I might have thought of a straw oboe, but a straw trombone?? <sup>o</sup> Lots of really helpful photos to teach the student through each section. <sup>o</sup> QUALITY OF EDITING <sup>o</sup> Appears to be perfect. Someone has spent a lot of time getting this right! The Table of Contents is excellent, the format of each experiment is clear and easy to follow. In addition, there is a nice glossary of terms and an Appendix explaining how to fill your junk drawer with more useful things. <sup>o</sup> All in all, a well-written, fun book. I think most kids will really like these experiments and have no trouble completing them. It is clear that the author is an experience science teacher. There has obviously been a lot of thought and planning that went into this book. Recommend! <sup>o</sup> A Review by Chris Lawson [Note: I do not know the author of this book, and no one requested I write this review.]

I'll be the dissenter and give this a four. Sorry! What I liked: For the most part, it was as advertised: Experiments that you can reasonably expect to do with stuff from your junk drawer or things you'd typically have hanging around the house. Hope you have a lot of duct tape. The experiments would work well for elementary through high school, though some of them are a bit "kiddy" for the older gang. There were many interesting facts disbursed through the book, things that even a child looking through would find interesting. There were also warnings in there too --- such as the steel wool experiment. It also explained the science behind it in layman's terms. Why the four stars? The lack of color photos. I wish there had been color photos. Some were kind of dark. There was such a heavy reliance on photos throughout the book that publishing them in black and white almost felt like a disservice to the author. It did feel kind of like reading 50 different PowerPoint slides, which made it super easy for me to get cover to cover in about an hour and make some plans for use at home. Teachers and parents, home schooling or not, could use this book to make science fun and less

boring with hands on experiences for the kids.

My nephew is 14 and loves science. He loves this book but doesn't get into too much trouble. So its the perfect in between book for kids who don't want to explode their parents kitchen... But still want to have fun.

Crazy me I took on teaching physics to 12 year olds in my homeschool coop. While I am fascinated by the subject, I really have no formal background to draw on. This book helped save my butt! ( this and YouTube :) Experiments are the way to go with kids and this is great book for easy and inexpensive. It delivers on what it says.

Husband and I enjoyed the projects and I have incorporated some I to my middle school science class lessons.

The activities are described very clearly, and as promised, can be completed with simple, everyday items. Also, the science behind each activity is explained very well!

Purchased as gift for 13 yr old nephew who is in advanced math and enjoys problem solving. Said book was cool and started doing experiments as soon as he got the book. Believe this gift is a winner!

Simple yet instructive activities. I really appreciate that I don't have to buy varied (and expensive) parts for my science students to be able to have hands-on lessons in physics.

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