

Flying Plastic Stunt

Objective	Get plastic to fly through the air using static electricity
Supplies	Plastic grocery bag. Scissors. Balloon. Wool hat or scarf or a cotton towel. ¹
Directions	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Blow up the balloon and tie off.2. Cut one-inch strips of the plastic bag².3. Rub the balloon with the hat, scarf, or towel for 45 seconds.4. Now rub one of the plastic strips with the towel for 45 seconds.5. Hold the plastic strip 1 foot above the balloon.6. It is flying!
Outcome	The plastic will float above the balloon.
How does it work?	When you rub the balloon and the plastic strip, you give them a negative charge. The strip of plastic floats above the balloon because like charges (or two negative charges) repel each other.

¹ Scientists love to use footnotes. They use them to add clarifying information to a document. So, here is your clarifying information. Wool works best, but I know that a lot of you don't have wool hats lying around.

² If you'd like, you could cut these strips so that they are loops by cutting across the open end of the bag.