

Centrifugal Hoops



Purpose: To demonstrate the effect of rotation on the shape of a deformable spherical body

Location: room 136, shelf L5

Make sure the shaft of the centrifugal hoops apparatus is tightened securely into the variable speed drill. Point the drill upward and observe the circular shape of the hoops. As you increase the speed of the drill the hoops will be seen to flatten. This is a good simulation of the effect that rotation has the shape of Earth, which tends to flatten at the poles and bulge at the equator.