

Charge-Propelled Cylinder (Polarizing Electric Charge)



Purpose: To demonstrate that electrically neutral objects are attracted to a charged object.

Location: room 146, shelf L2

Start by placing the empty soda can on a hard, level surface and show that the uncharged Teflon^R rod does not attract or repel the can. Rub the rod on fur to give the Teflon^R rod a negative charge. Move the rod close to the can without touching it and observe as it begins rolling towards the rod.

Give students an opportunity to explain how an uncharged object could be attracted to a charged object.