

Longitudinal Wave Model



Purpose: To demonstrate the action of traveling longitudinal waves.

Location: room 146, shelf O2

When the knob on the right is rotated clockwise, compressions and rarefactions appear to travel across the model. But the individual “particles” (i.e. slats) do not ‘travel’, but simply oscillate about an equilibrium position. The ‘traveling’ motion is a result of phase differences between the oscillations of neighboring “particles”.