

Magdeburg Hemispheres



Purpose: To demonstrate the presence and strength of atmospheric pressure.

Location: room 136, on tall wooden cart, by vacuum pump

Connect the tubing from the base of the vacuum gage on the vacuum pump to the fitting on the Magdeburg Hemispheres as shown and turn on the pump. Be sure the release valve on the pump is closed and the valve on the hemispheres is open. Evacuate until the gage reads below -30 in. of mercury vacuum and the pump is running quietly. Close the valve on the hemispheres, shut the pump off, disconnect the tubing, and let one of your stronger students try to pull them apart.

(If you have trouble getting a good seal, apply a thin layer of vacuum grease around the rim.)