

Precessing Bike Wheel



Purpose: To demonstrate precession of a rotating bicycle wheel subjected to torque.

Location: room 136, atop stainless steel cart

Get the bicycle wheel rotating in a vertical plane as fast as possible, then, suspend it from the string attached to an end of the handle. The torque on the wheel from the pull of gravity results in precession. Show that rotation in the opposite direction results in precession in the opposite direction, in accordance with the right hand rule.