

Volta's Hail Storm (VdG)



Purpose: To show that when conductive balls contact a charged metal plate, acquiring like charge, they are repelled by the electric field between the plates to the oppositely charged plate, where the process repeats itself.

Location: 146; shelf L3 (tape on L2; VdG on L1)

Dump the gold-coated pith balls into the Volta's Hail Storm apparatus. Tape the banana plug end of a patch cord to the top of the Van de Graaff and clip the other end to the top post as shown. This demo illustrates the same phenomenon as the Electrostatic Ping-Pong demo, but with more dramatic visual impact.