

SCS Quick Science!

CD Hovercraft

Using an old CD or DVD, a balloon, a nail or tack, and some hot glue, you can create a hovercraft! The air leaving the balloon will allow the CD or DVD to float along the surface of your table similar to a puck floating on an air hockey table.

1. Using a tack or nail, poke 2 holes in the bottle cap. If you are using something very small, you may need more holes.
2. Hot glue the bottle cap over the hole of the CD or DVD. Make sure you have the shiny side down, and the printed side up so you hovercraft can float smoothly across the table or floor.
3. Blow up a balloon and twist the bottom without tying it. This will prevent the air from escaping while you carefully wrap the bottom of the balloon around the bottle cap.
4. Let the balloon go and give your hovercraft a gentle push! It should glide smoothly across a flat surface.

Pro tip #1: This experiment was taught to me using tape to cover the hole of the CD prior to gluing the bottle cap on, but I found that it limited the air too much and wouldn't allow my hovercraft to move.

