



# Disco Whirler

## Activity Instructions

Mess-O-Meter



"lightly messy"

### Materials

- washer or button
- straws
- string
- scissors
- ruler (optional)

### Procedure

1. Cut a string about 2-3 feet long.
2. Thread the string through the straw.
3. Tie one end of the string to the washer/button.
4. Hold the straw in one hand, and hold the loose end of the string in the other.
5. Let the washer/button dangle, start swinging the washer in a small circle.
6. As you swing the washer/button, slowly let out more string to make a larger circle.
7. Make observations of what happens!

And share your results online by going to: [scienceworksmuseum.org/home\\_project/](https://scienceworksmuseum.org/home_project/) and tagging @scienceworksmuseum on Facebook.

### Overview

Momentum is force that pushes or pulls a moving object, whether it's a bowling ball rolling toward pins, a car driving along the highway, or a rocket launched into space. Momentum doesn't only apply to objects moving in a straight line, but twirling, spinning, or orbiting objects are affected in interesting ways. Investigate more about angular momentum, a force that impacts everything from your doorknob to the moon!

