



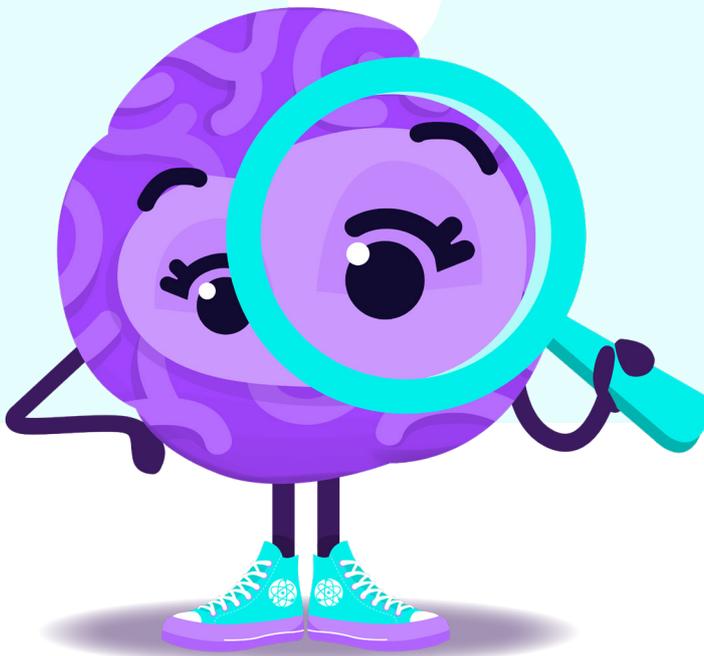
Sens-ational Science Club

MAKE YOUR OWN BENHAM'S TOP

Benham's Top or Benham's disk is named after the toymaker who popularised them in the 1800s.

WHAT YOU NEED

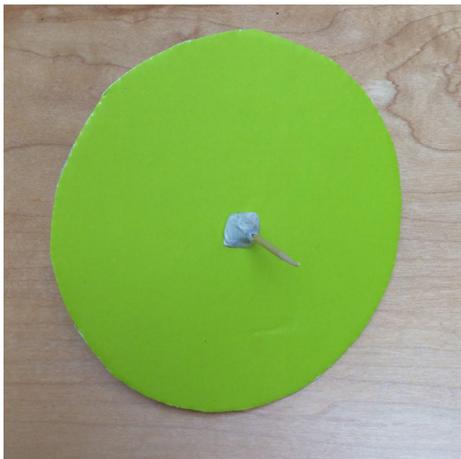
- > A printer
- > Printer paper
- > Thin card (cereal packets work well)
- > Scissors
- > Glue Stick
- > A sharp pin or needle (and adult help)
- > Wooden toothpick
- > Blue tac
- > Optional- straws





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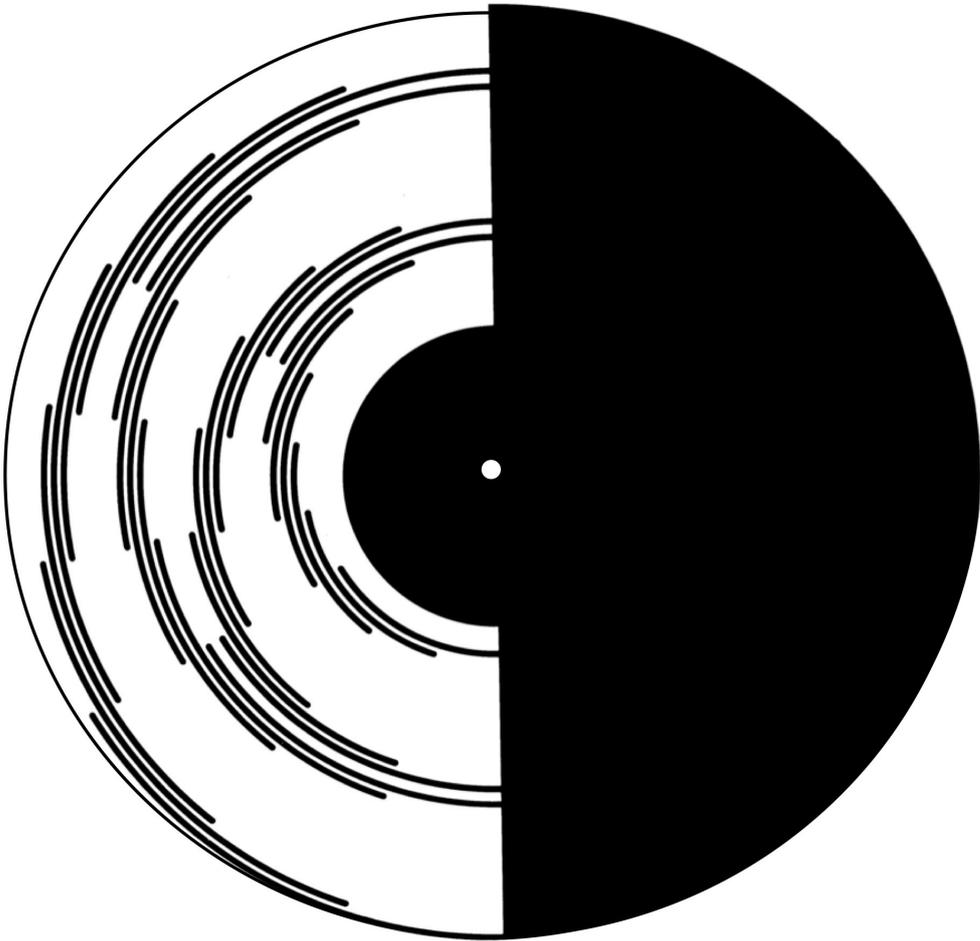
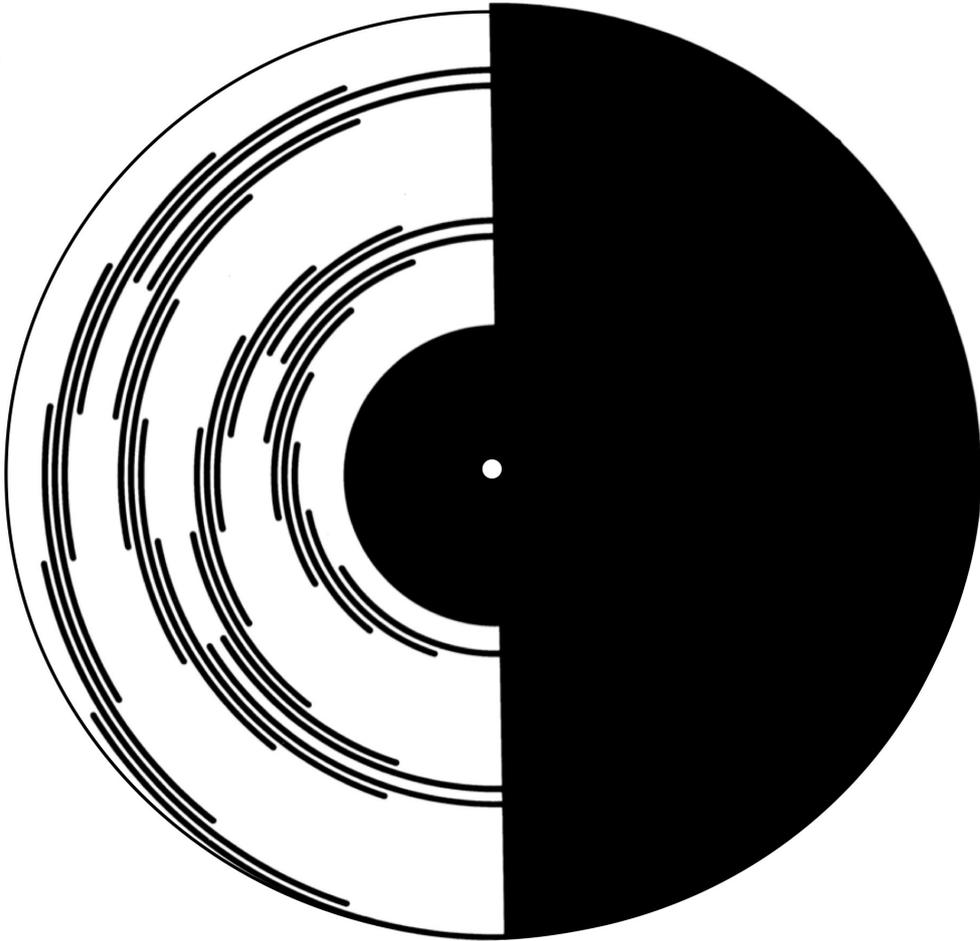
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HOW TO

- 1** Print out the next page (if you have thin card that goes in the printer, you can print directly onto it and skip step 3).
- 2** Carefully cut out one of the disks.
- 3** Glue onto your thin card & cut around the disk again. This can be a bit tricky, so ask an adult if you need help.
- 4** Ask an adult to make a small hole in the centre of the circle with a pin.
- 5** Poke a wooden toothpick through the hole, so about $\frac{1}{3}$ is below the disk and $\frac{2}{3}$ sticking out the top. Be careful- the ends of toothpicks can be sharp!
- 6** Use blobs of blue tac above and below the hole to hold the toothpick in place.
- 7** Hold the toothpick at the top, and give your spinner a twirl, and release.
- 8** **Optional:** cut a short piece of straw and slide it over the top of the tooth pic- there should still be some toothpick sticking out the top.
- 9** To stop it falling over, hold the piece of straw gently- the toothpick should spin within it, twirling the disk with it.
- 10** Look at the black-and-white disk as it spins. Can you see any colours appearing? Ask someone else what colours they see- are they the same as yours?

PRINT ME



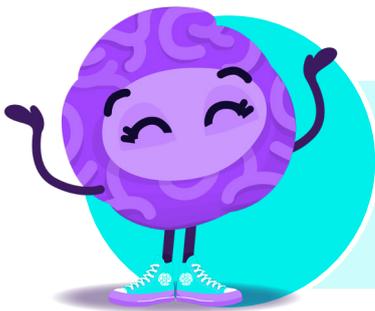


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THE SCIENCE

No one knows exactly why we see colours when certain black-and-white patterns move quickly, but it is thought to be something to do with the speed at which the colour-sensitive cells in our eyes respond. We also don't know why different people see different colours when looking at this illusion!



SHARE YOUR RESULTS!

   @BraintasticSci

Send us any questions using #curiositycorner

Or Email: hello@braintasticscience.com