

The Mysterious Rolling Pop Can

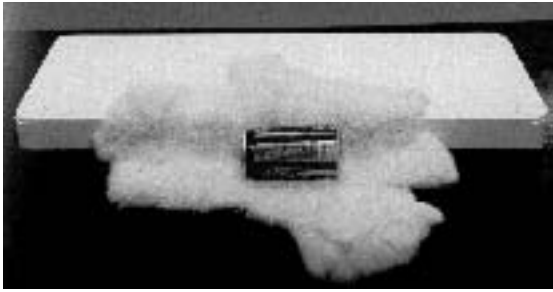


Figure 1

You Need

(See Figure 1.)

- 1 polystyrene plastic shelf
- 1 wool sweater (or rabbit fur)
- 1 empty pop can

Try This!



Figure 2

1. Rub the surface of the plastic bookshelf thoroughly with r an old wool sweater (or rabbit fur). (Figure 2) You will hear a crackling sound as the shelf is being charged. This procedure places a negative charge on the surface of the shelf.

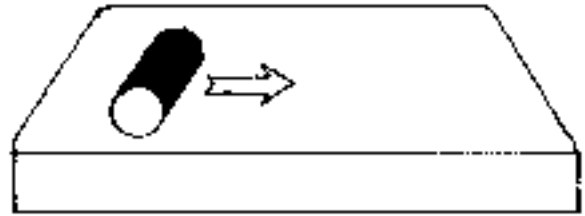


Figure 3

2. Place an empty pop can, on its side, at either end of the bookshelf. See Figure 3.



Figure 4

What Happens?

The empty pop can rolls the length of the shelf. **See Figures 3 and 4.** It may keep going and roll off the other end! Alternatively, it may stop and roll back.

Can you make the pop can run uphill?