

SCIENCE @ THE LIBRARY

COIN VORTEX

HOW IT WORKS:

Simply place a coin in one of the two launching ramps (both point in the same direction) and watch as the coin swirls around the funnel, faster and faster, until the coin reaches its terminal velocity and drops down into the center of the coin funnel.

WHERE DOES IT GET ITS POWER?

The initial power is supplied by you when you lift the coins into the air. When you let go of them, gravity takes over. They slide down the ramp and shoot onto the funnel surface at a precise speed and angle. If they go too fast, they will run into the rim of the cone. If they go too slow, they will dive toward the center hole. It is the height and angle of the ramps which provides the correct angle and speed.

Gravity alone will not cause motion. By itself, it only holds objects tight against the earth. There must be some other source of energy that first moves objects away from the earth. Then, and only then, will gravity cause the object to move by drawing it back to the earth. You supply that energy when you lift the coin, and then drop it.