

A Simple PK Training Device

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During the past 10 years I have put a lot of energy into trying to get objective detection (mainly by electronic means) of subtle fields: by which I mean a variety of field-like phenomena, such as dowsing and the aura, which do not seem accountable in terms of electromagnetism. A principal motivation has been to detect the influence which seems to linger in crop circles, and cause a variety of symptoms in some of the people who enter. Since I lack the background (and money) required to engage in mainstream physics, I have chosen to try to reproduce a number of claims appearing in what must be called the fringe literature, and on the Net. In every one of these attempts, however, I have either failed to reproduce the phenomenon, or have easily reproduced it, only, after further work, to find it explicable by some simple artefact. I published my efforts in the Newsletter of the U.S. Psychotronics Association, under the title: "Some attempts to reproduce anomalous phenomena"¹. In this article I invited the claimants to comment, and then published their contributions, along with my answers to these contributions. What they wrote did not, in the main, convince me.

While musing over my repeated failures (and becoming a little bit depressed) one day the thought struck me: "If I'm really serious about the experimenter effect, and all that mind-matter stuff, then perhaps the universe is waiting for me to develop the relevant part of my own mind - after which, maybe, things will work for me". By this time I had already, in one of Brian O'Leary's workshops, bent a spoon in what seemed a paranormally easy fashion. So, taking instruction from a book entitled: "Amazing And Wonderful Mind Machines You Can Build"², I made a little light wheel out of foil, with a glass bearing³, balanced it on a needle, and enclosed it in an upturned glass jar. I then cupped my hands around the jar (leaving some 5-10cm space each side) and said to myself: "I am going to sit here until it moves". After what must have been nearly ten minutes of intense concentration (imagining the movement) it moved! About 45 degrees. Since then I have been practising daily, and now it often moves within a minute, and has 3 times done more than a full turn. Once it has moved on a particular day, I seem to "run out of steam" and have to wait until the next day to get it to move again. By degrees I am becoming familiar with the mental state required to do this. It seems to require a certain detachment. Any emotion, such as excitement when it moves, instantly causes it to stop. Likewise it is no good to try too hard. The next stage will be to get it to move without my hands around, and then hopefully from increasing distances. Of course my psychic powers are perfectly ordinary: the author found that some 80% of his colleagues could learn to move such a wheel. It was suggested in the book that the wheel could not be moved if placed under a polystyrene cover. So far, however, my wheel seems to move just as well under polystyrene as under glass.

The glass jar is essential, as these wheels are very sensitive to air currents. In 1988, while working for the Dove Project, I investigated a claim that such wheels were rotating under the action of some mysterious "free energy". It was only necessary to place some object in a strategic position close to the wheel and it would rotate continuously. Using smoke from a joss-stick, I found that convection currents exist in almost any room, whether centrally-heated or not. The object merely served to direct the air flow around one side of the wheel.

More recently SMN member Michael Brown has done careful work with the Egely Wheel, which rotates when a hand is brought near, and is claimed by the manufacturer to respond to human "energy" - even to be driven by a stream of magnetic monopoles of biological origin. Michael confirmed that there was some relation between the speed of rotation and the operator's state of mind. For example genuine laughter resulted in the wheel spinning fast. It was thus possible to use it as a crude biofeedback device. However, a thermal explanation could still be entertained since the veins in the back of the hand can expand and contract according to the state of mind. More critically, the wheel would not work at all in an enclosure protecting it from thermal convection currents.

Against this, and for a PK explanation of my recent efforts, are first the fact that my wheel moves inside a glass jar, with an airtight lid. Second is the quite different character of the movements. The wind-driven wheels rotate continuously, without any special mental efforts on the part of the operator. But in any one session my shielded wheel will only do one (or very occasionally two) movements, of a few degrees, up to the current maximum of about 400 degrees. Before and after such a circumscribed event, I have sat with my hands in position for as much as 30min without seeing it move at all. And, as mentioned above, subjectively I am sure that the movement does depend on the state of my mind.

Finally, of course there are many references to this kind of PK in the literature, eg when Elmer Green arranged for Swami Rama to move a much larger wheel at a distance of about 6ft. Twice he obtained a 10 degree move⁴. Although this wheel was unshielded, the Swami was well strapped down, and wore a special mask to stop him blowing it with his breath. (In spite of this one sceptical observer insisted that it must involve some kind of trickery). More recently members who went to the SMN meeting in Saint-Petersburg may have seen the video shown by the Russian parapsychologist Andrei Lee. A group of untrained people ("off the street" as he said) were told under hypnotism that they could move the wheel. They could then move it from a distance of several feet, as well with a protective cover as without. When four such wheels were presented, they could even selectively move a chosen one of them.

Having read so much parapsychology, I had thought that I fully believed these things. But maybe I only believed in my conscious mind, while the subconscious was still holding on to its inbuilt scepticism - and as we know, it is the subconscious that really counts. If so, then this experience with the wheel may be doing something to soften my subconscious attitude. I recommend anyone who thinks they may have a similar problem to make such a wheel, and learn to move it.

Dr. Roger Taylor is a former immunologist interested in the effect of non-Hertzian fields on instruments, biological systems and the structure of water.

1. Photocopies available from the Network Office.
2. By G. Harry Stine. Top of the Mountain Publishing, Largo, Florida. 1992. Actually a very good, practical, how-to-do-it book.
3. To make the bearing you can draw out some glass tubing in a gas flame (or use a Pasteur pipette), then score it with a diamond and break at a place where the internal diameter is about 2mm. Seal off the end nearest the undrawn tubing, then cut off a piece about 5mm long. Make a cross-shaped piece of foil small enough to fit in your jar, punch a central hole of a size to fit over the bearing and glue on. I tried to make it yet more sensitive by vibrating the needle vertically with a piezo sounding disc, but it did not seem to help. A simpler, but

less sensitive, way is to cut a square of foil, fold on one diagonal, unfold, then fold on the other diagonal, unfold. The needle point fits where the folds cross.

4. *Beyond Biofeedback* by Elmer and Alyce Green. Delta Books, 1977.