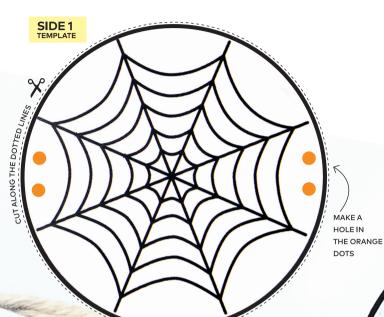


Things to make and do

Make a creepy illusion



Fool your eyes with a magical spinner.

What you need

- Templates
- Scissors
- Card
- Glue
- Hole punch
- 2 x 45cm-long string

How does it work?

This is a version of a toy called a thaumatrope. When you twirl the disc quickly, the two pictures on either side appear to blend together. The illusion works because your eyes hold on to an image a fraction of a second after it disappears. Because of this, a series of still images shown quickly enough, one after the other, looks like a moving image. This is the trick behind films.





Trace the templates (above) onto paper or cut them out from this page. Glue one onto a piece of card and cut it out. Glue the other template to the other side of the card disc.



Using a hole punch, make two holes in one side of the circle. Use the dots as a guide. Thread a piece of string through both holes. Tie the ends together to make a loop. Repeat for the other side.



Hold a loop of string in each hand and twist each to wind it up. Then, pull the loops gently apart to make the spinner spin. Do you see the spider on its web?

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Did you get the illusion to work? Send your videos to scienceandnature@dennis.co.uk