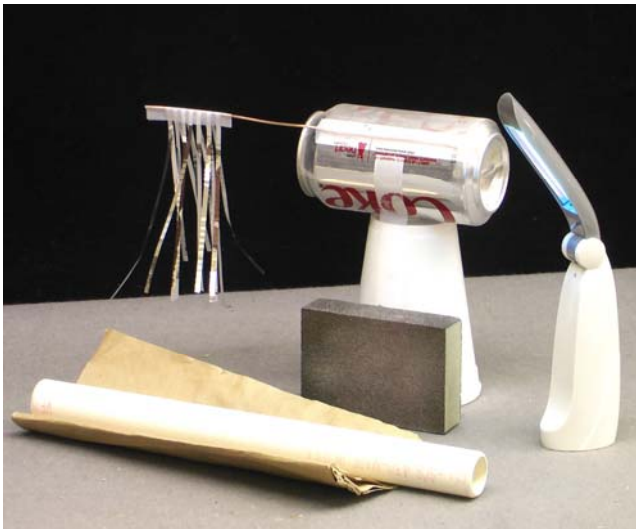


“Simple Photoelectric Effect” Demonstration Wins Award

The [American Association of Physics Teachers \(AAPT\)](#) holds an [Apparatus Competition](#) each year at its annual summer meeting. The Apparatus Competition was established to recognize, reward, and publicize worthwhile contributions to physics teaching through demonstration and experiment. With huge advances in technology, many physics apparatus are now commercially available. But even with these advances, physics research still requires the inventive spirit of designing and building experimental apparatus one's self. Whether developed to pique the interest of students, used in lecture and demonstration, or simply used to help teach physics in new or fascinating ways, teachers are continually engineering apparatus to aid physics instruction. The Apparatus Competition is where teachers can share their apparatus with others. Adam Beehler, entered the Competition this past summer and was among the winners for his Simple Photoelectric Effect. You may read about the competition and view this year's winners using the links below.



Albert Einstein's Nobel Prize winning [photoelectric effect](#) has been demonstrated for many years quite effectively, yet now it can be done with simple household items. Past versions used [specialized blacklights](#) or [carbon-arc lamps](#) to show any effect. This version takes advantage of the currently popular [germ sanitizer lights](#), which are much more affordable and portable. It also uses aluminum pop cans instead of zinc plates and Christmas tree tinsel instead of standard [electroscopes](#).

YouTube video of the basics of the demonstration
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WO38qVDGgqw>

AAPT Apparatus Competition
<http://www.aapt.org/Contests/apparatus.cfm>

2009 winners – including Adam Beehler
http://www.aapt.org/Contests/apparatus_winners_2009.cfm

competition sponsored by PASCO Scientific
<http://www.pasco.com/>