Newton's Cradle

Key words: Newton Cradle, collision, kinetic, mechanical, mechanics, conservation of energy





Equipment List:

1. Newton cradle

How to assemble and operate:

- Lift chosen number of balls away from remaining balls at rest, ensuring strings are taut
- Release lifted balls, observe collision

Description/Theory:

This demonstration illustrates mechanical energy conservation in collisions. The number of balls that move is equal to the number of balls released, which shows the energy is conserved.

Comments/Notes:

Be careful not to tangle the strings. Be careful about fingers being hit. Ensure the balls are secure before beginning to demonstrate.