

CONFETTI LAUNCHER



as built on TV.
pbs.org/designsquad

People are always looking for ways to make an event more fun. What's more fun than confetti? Once it comes raining down, you can't help but smile.



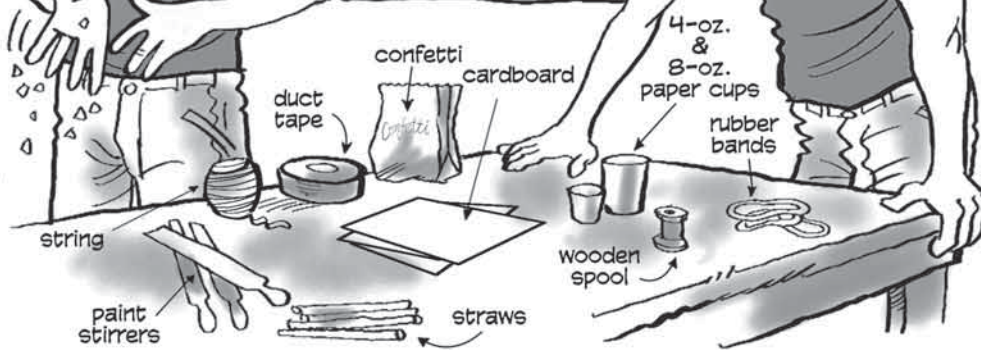
Confetti is used at theaters, the circus, parties, parades, and sports events. But how do you launch it?

All right, I want you to INVENT a confetti launcher.

Let's review the specs. It's got to be easy to use. And it's got to send the confetti high—the bigger the cloud, the better!

MATERIALS

Let's look at your materials. What can you use to launch confetti?



LET'S GET TO WORK!

BRAINSTORM & DESIGN

- Will my launcher sit on the ground or will it be handheld?
- How do I load the confetti?
- How do other devices launch things into the air?

BUILD

OK, show time! Lots of possibilities here. Slingshots, catapults, and levers can all send confetti flying.

TEST & REDESIGN

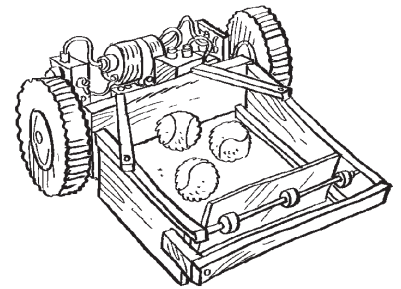
Does the confetti burst out in the shape you want? Is it as high or wide or fluttery as you had hoped? If not, how can you change it?

HINT

A launcher changes stored (potential) energy into motion (kinetic) energy.

The resulting force sends confetti flying.

Fun stuff! By figuring out a way to launch confetti, you've made people's lives more fun. Finding ways to help people do what's important to them is what invention and engineering are all about.



To help people improve their tennis game, the Essex High School InvenTeam invented a robotic tennis ball retriever. It collects the loose balls and drops them into a base station, which serves them up to the player. Check out this project and others at web.mit.edu/inventeams.



PBS. Watch DESIGN SQUAD on PBS or online at pbs.org/designsquad.

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