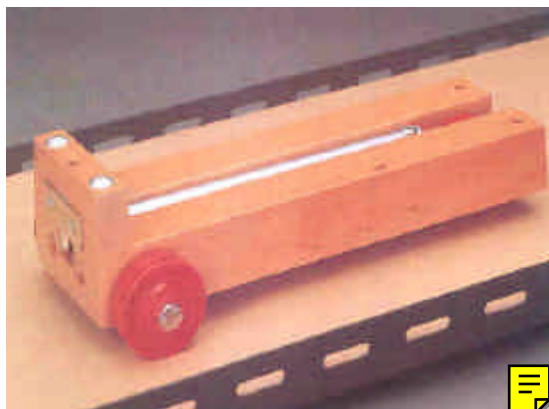




Safety Corner

An Accident with Dynamic Trolleys

An accident occurred in the Physics laboratory of a school. A student's spectacles were broken by the spring-loaded impulse rod during the experiment with dynamic trolleys; broken pieces of glass got into his eye. After the accident the student accompanied by a minor staff was sent to hospital. His eye was dressed and it was lucky that his eye was unhurt.



The dynamic trolley is actually quite a safe equipment. In this case the student used the dynamic trolley in the experiment on Newton's Law. Because the spring-loaded impulse rod was not required in this experiment, he tried to push the rod back into the trolley. He put the trolley on the bench vertically, looking close down and pushed the rod into the trolley. As his eyes were close to the trolley, the rod sprang back suddenly and hit his spectacles. His spectacles broke and glass chips got into his eye.

To prevent such an accident, precautionary measures should be adopted. The trolley should be checked to make sure that the spring-loaded impulse rod is secured inside the tube before distributing the trolley to the students. During the experiment if the rod springs out, teacher should guide students to push the rod back in position the correct way.

According to the syllabus, the suggested group experiments using the dynamic trolleys do not involve the spring-loaded impulse rod. Hence, an alternative way is to remove the spring-loaded impulse rod from the trolley before letting students carry out the experiments on trolleys, and to re-fix the spring-loaded impulse rod onto the trolley afterwards.

