

Hero's Aeolipile



Purpose: Demonstrates heat to work.

Hero of Alexandria's aeolipile (literally "wind ball") is the granddaddy of the modern turbine. It is also one of the earliest known machines (possibly conceptual only) to demonstrate the conversion of heat energy to mechanical work. It is also often cited as the first steam engine. What is fact is that it is fun to run!

Note: Since the aeolipile hangs crooked, be careful not to put too much water in, or it will squirt out the lower jet. Put the stopper back and heat to boiling with a torch.

Extra Equipment: Ring stand with crossbar and butane torch

Location: Shelf D3