

Wimhurst's Machine



The Wimhurst Machine

Purpose: Creates large voltages and sparks.

Named after James Wimhurst (of whom it is hard to find much information).

This is a handy and interesting induction generator. It comes equipped with Leyden jars to store extra charge so you can make very decent sparks. In many ways it is much more impressive than the Van de Graff generator.

Note: The machine works in only one direction (cranked counter-clockwise as seen from the rear [crank] side). Also, for safety the output terminals are connected by a wire while not in use.

See the IOP's reprint of the article: 'A New Form of Influence Machine' (James Wimshurst 1892 *Proc. Phys. Soc. London* 12 403406).

Extra Equipment: None

Location: Shelf F1