Rubber Band Powered Boat

Materials

- 1 small plastic box (about the size of an Altoids tin)
- 2 popsicle sticks
- 1 small square of plastic (2 1/2 x 1 inch is ideal). Margarine lids or other disposable food containers work well.
- 1 small rubber band
- 1 large rubber band

Instructions

- With the box closed, secure the popsicle sticks flat against the sides with a thick rubber band, so that about 1/4 to 1/2 of each stick is extending out beyond the end of the box.
- Place a thinner rubber band across the ends of the sticks.
- Slip the piece of plastic through the thin rubber band.
- Twist the rubber band (as you twist the rubber band you are storing potential energy in the twists).
- Place the boat in the water, and let it go (allowing the rubber band to untwist, turning potential energy into kinetic energy).

Tip: Don't over twist the band, or it will break, but the more you twist it, the faster and longer the little boat will move.

Activity from: http://almostunschoolers.blogspot.com/2009/07/30-second-science-rubber-band-powered.html

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