

DO ~~NOT~~ TRY THIS AT HOME

Issue #113

Featuring: **Marvin and Milo**

What you need: • A paperclip • A cereal bowl
• Water • Washing-up liquid • A tissue

Classic error Milo, your paperclip has fallen off your notes and out of your grasp. Wait, let me show you this.

Put the paperclip on a flat piece of tissue in the empty bowl. Fill the bowl with water, being careful not to pour water directly on top of the paperclip and tissue.

The tissue will sink as it absorbs water, but the paperclip will float!

Wait! Now put a drop of washing-up liquid in the bowl. The paperclip will sink!

Although the paperclip should be heavy enough to sink, the surface tension of the water holds it up. When the washing up liquid dissolves in the water it lowers the overall surface tension, so the paperclip sinks.

Vic Le Billon