



Spring-loaded Dairy

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This photograph shows a cluster of tinted milk drops being accelerated upward. The acceleration was achieved by first placing the milk drops on a black plate. Four dowels were placed underneath the plate. The dowels compressed four springs that were fastened to a desktop in PVC pipes. When the springs were released, the plate accelerated through a laser photogate that triggered the flash, thus capturing the event on film.

Ripples and craters in the flattened drops can be seen. The ripples are analogous to the ripples that appear when a rock is dropped into a pond. The crater is formed as the center collapses and the milk moves toward the outside of the drop. Other photographs show that as the acceleration continues, the sides of the drops heighten compared to the flattened center.