

Flying Paper Ring Experiment

On SCOPE's Science in the Sky episode, Jess experimented with making different versions of a flying paper ring. Here's how you can try it at home!



What you need:

- A4 Paper
- Scissors
- Sticky Tape
- (optional) Larger paper and Colouring pens

What to do:

1. Take a piece of A4 paper and cut it in half lengthways.
2. Along the long edge, fold over about a centimetre or so of paper. Repeat this fold over 3 or more times.
3. Gently curve the paper into a circle, or ring shape, making sure the folds are on the inside. Wrapping it around a can of food will make it easier. Tape the ends in places.
4. To fly the ring, it has to be thrown forwards (with the folded edge leading), but also spinning. There are many ways to do it, one way is like the American footballers throw their long spiralling passes.
5. Try making different size models, varying the paper, the number and size of the folds.
6. Another slightly stranger looking version can be made by folding A4 paper diagonally, then folding up from the long folded edge several times, and then forming the ring. It will look very asymmetrical, with spiky tails, but amazingly still flies very well.
7. Decorate your creations.



What's happening?

The spinning motion is the key to distance, as it seems to stabilise the ring in flight, turning it into a flying gyroscope.