

Questacon Science Squad Activity – Weird whirring widget

The video for this transcript can be found on the Questacon Science Squad website at:

<http://sciencesquad.questacon.edu.au/activities>

Transcription from video:

(Sound of bubbles popping)

Anna: Hi, my name is Anna and I'm from the Questacon Science Squad and today I'm going to show you to make your own Weird Whirring Widget and some very funny sounds.

You need:

a pair of scissors

a plastic straw

two pop sticks

a large, thick rubber band, like this one

(Anna holds up the large, thick rubber band)

and two smaller rubber bands

Now firstly, take one of your pop sticks and wrap the large, thick rubber band around the end of it like this.

(Anna starts wrapping the large, thick rubber band around the pop stick)

Oops.

(Rubber band flicks off)

Nearly there, excellent.

Now take your pair of scissors and your plastic straw and cut two strips about three centimetres long.

(Anna cuts two strips)

Excellent.

Now take your pop stick and your piece of straw and place it underneath the rubber band at one end, just like that.

(Anna places the straw onto the pop stick)

Then place the other pop stick on top. Now tie the two ends tightly together with your thin, rubber band.

(Anna is tightening the thin rubber band around the pop stick and straw)

Nice and tight, one more, excellent.

Now take your other piece of straw and place it between the two pop sticks, about the same distance from the end as the other one. And tie it together tightly with the other thin, rubber band.

(Anna is tightening the rubber band over the second piece of straw and pop stick)

Excellent, one more, there we go.

Now you're ready to play your Weird Whirring Widget. Bring it to your mouth and blow gently.

(Anna blows the Weird Whirring Widget gently and it plays quietly)

Or blow with force to make some very funny sounds.

(Anna blows the Weird Whirring Widget with force and it plays loudly)

Bring the straws closer together or further apart to make some high sounds or low sounds.

To find out why your Weird Whirring Widget makes these funny sounds visit the Questacon Science Squad website.