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Flipperdinger

Both children and adults were fascinated by scientific experiments and the flipperdinger (the modern name and not a period term) is a toy that illustrates the Bernoulli’s law (an increase in lift occurs simultaneously with decrease in pressure).

This concept was included as a “magic trick” called the “Dancing Pea” in *The Magician’s Own Book*. (1858).

“The Dancing Pea.

If you stick through a pea, or small ball of pith, two pins at right angles, and defend the points with two pieces of sealing wax, it may be kept in equilibrium at a short distance from the end of a straight tube by means of a current of breath from the mouth, which imparts a rotary motion to the pea.”

A patent for this toy was issued to A. Frite on January 23, 1877. Patent number 186,418.

