

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2008 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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Project Number

J0118

Project Title

To Dimple or Not To Dimple: Can the Distance of a BB Be Improved by Dimpling Its Surface?

Objectives/Goals

Abstract

The objective of this experiment was to determine if dimpling the exterior of a BB will improve the distance it will travel when fired from a BB rifle.

Methods/Materials

The exterior surfaces of 5 plastic BBs were dimpled and then 5 non-dimpled BBs were used as a control group. Each of the 10 BBs was fired from a rifle 7 times each. The height of the impact on a target placed at the end of a hallway was then measured.

Results

The results showed that the dimpled BBs hit the target an average of 38% higher than the non-dimpled BBs.

Conclusions/Discussion

The results of my experiment supported my hypothesis as the dimpled BBs did strike the target at a higher mark. However the trajectory of the dimpled BBs was erratic. By creating a more uniform dimpled pattern, the flight of the BB should be more normal.

Summary Statement

An experiment to see if adding dimples to the exterior of a BB will increase its distance when fired from a rifle.

Help Received

Father helped dimple BBs, set up firing range to test experiment, and helped type report.