

# CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2012 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

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**Project Number** 

J0911

## **Project Title**

# **Steeling the Show**

### Abstract

# **Objectives/Goals**

In my project, I wanted to know if the core used in a solenoid will affect the strength of the magnetic field.

#### Methods/Materials

A solenoid was constructed, allowing different cores of identical size to be inserted. The solenoid was connected to a power source, switched on and the strength of the magnetic field measured by 2 methods: how many paper clips each core/solenoid picked up, and a gauss reading using a homemade gauss meter. For each core, 5-10 readings were taken at 3v, 6v, 12v, and at both polarities.

### **Results**

The steel core was the strongest. The next strongest cores were air, zinc, and water. Copper and brass were the weakest overall.

### **Conclusions/Discussion**

Conductivity of the core in a solenoid has little to no effect on the strength of the magnetic field, only how ferromagnetic the material is.

# **Summary Statement**

I tried to determine if different cores used in a solenoid would affect the magnetic field strength.

### Help Received

Father helped wind coil; My teacher helped get project organized