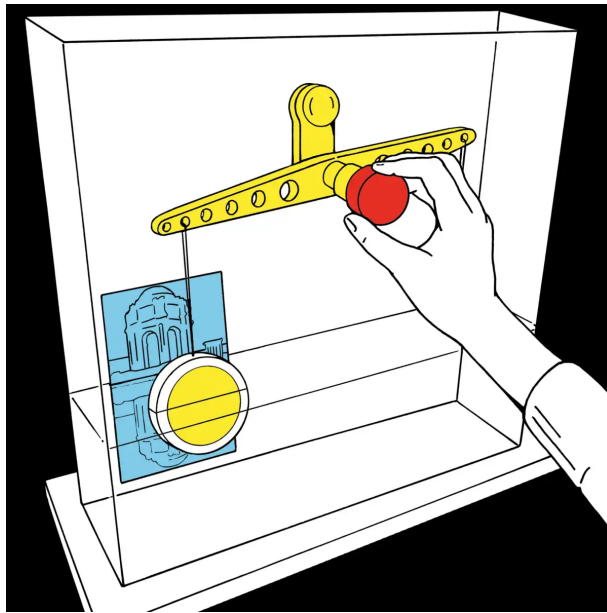


Invisible Glass

Can you make glass disappear?



Turn the black knob to lower the glass rods into the liquid.

What do you notice?

Look at the picture on the left through the lens – when the lens is in the liquid and when it is above the surface.

What difference do you see?

When light meets the surface of a transparent material, part of the beam is reflected (turned back), as if at a mirror. The remainder passes through the surface and is generally refracted (changed in direction). How much the light beam is bent depends on the materials either side of the surface.

The oily fluid, the lens and all but one of the glass rods have been chosen so that there is no refraction (nor any reflection either). This means we can no longer see the rods, and the lens no longer magnifies while immersed.