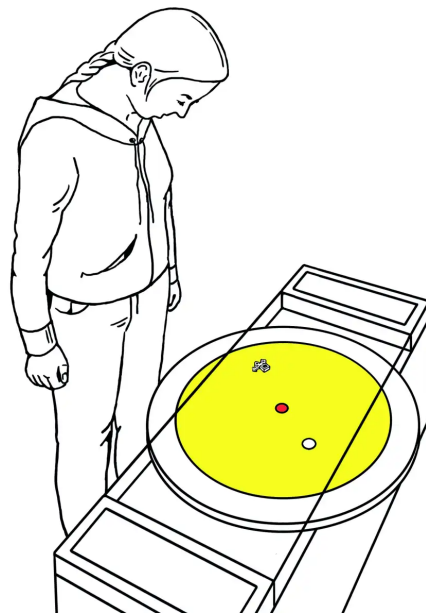


Disappearer

Can you make money disappear without touching it?



Place a small object or a coin on the star on the Plexiglas plate.

Slowly rotate the round disk.

Relax and stare at the red dot in the center of the disk while the disk is rotating. What happens?

Try different sized objects at different distances from the red dot.

The objects seem to disappear from the Plexiglas disk. However, they will reappear immediately when you look directly at them or when you stop rotating the disk.

Moving patterns, like the disk, draw your attention and your visual system temporarily stops seeing the objects that aren't moving and that you aren't looking at directly. Even though you expect to always see everything in your view, your brain automatically gives higher priority to anything in motion. Anything not in motion will be temporarily "erased".

This surprising aspect of our visual perception may be a product of evolution because a strong sensitivity for something moving might be an advantage to survival.