

Exploratorium Cookbook III

A Construction Manual for Exploratorium Exhibits

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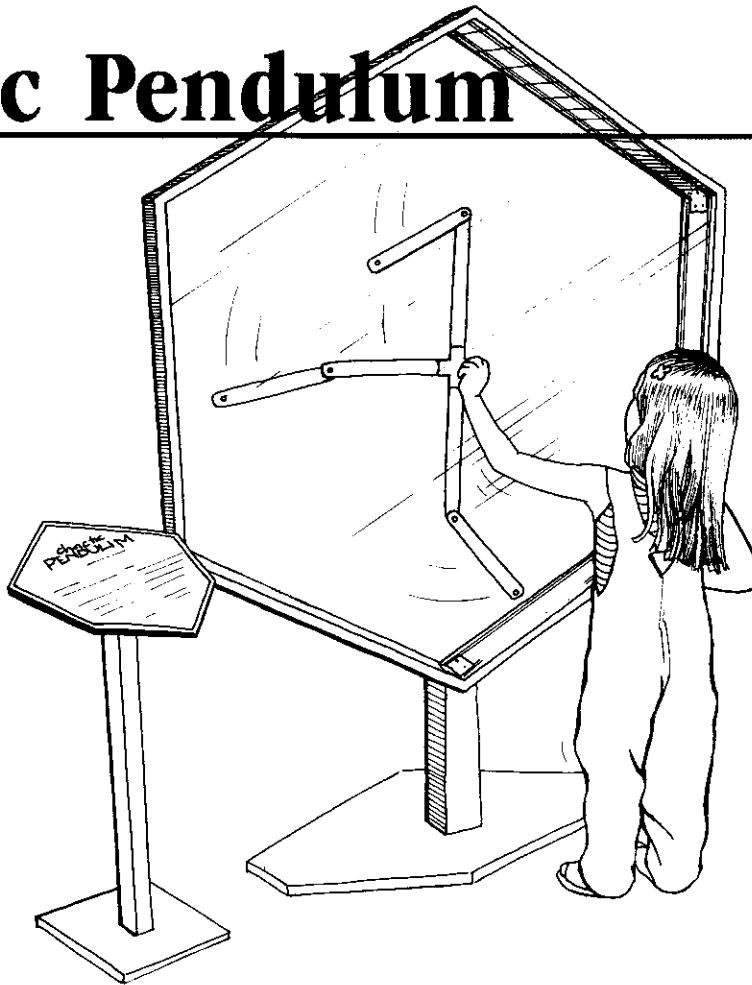
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Chaotic Pendulum



Description

Chaotic Pendulum is an art piece by Ned Kahn, who has worked for many years with the phenomena of motion. This set of connected pendulums demonstrates that a simple motion—a twist of a knob—can have complicated and unpredictable results. *Chaotic motion* occurs whenever a small difference in the initial conditions makes a large difference in the outcome. Such systems have many branching points; so many branches can be taken that predictability becomes impossible. Like other pieces built for the Exploratorium by artists, **Chaotic Pendulum** also functions as a science exhibit.

Because **Chaotic Pendulum** is a popular exhibit, we included details of its construction in earlier editions of Cookbook III. However, since the first publication of Cookbook III, we have instituted a new policy: Out of respect for the artists who work in the Exploratorium on commission, we no longer give out information on the construction of art pieces. If you are interested in the construction details of **Chaotic Pendulum**, you can contact the Exploratorium, and we will put you in touch with the artist.

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