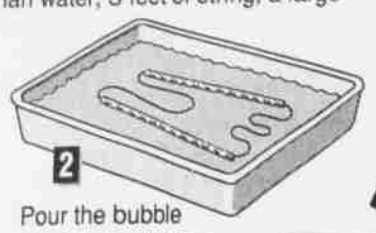
Try this: Super bubbles

This experiment demonstrates how to put air inside a hollow film of soapy water to form a bubble.

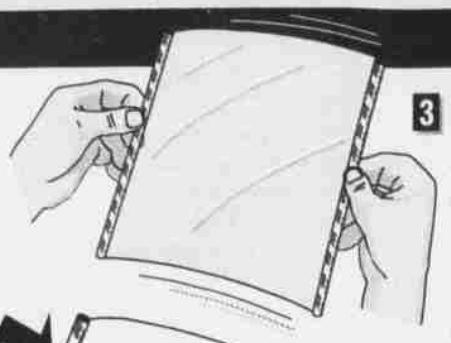
Make a super large bubble

You'll need: Two plastic drinking straws, a jar of bubble mix with more detergent than water, 3 feet of string, a large baking pan.

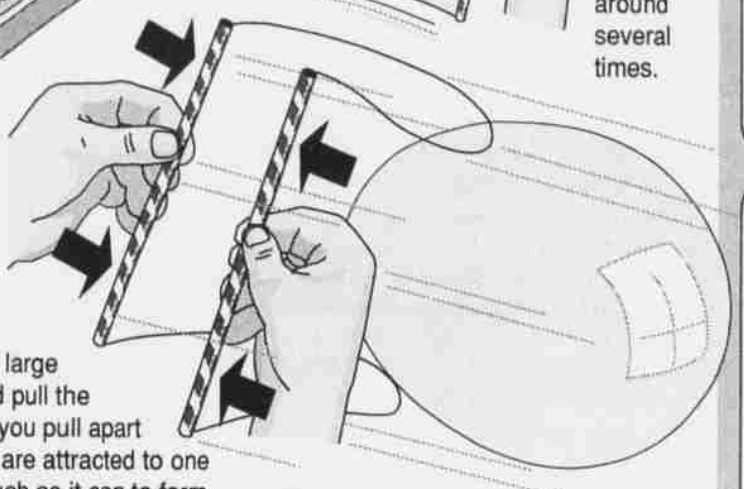
1 Thread the string through the two drinking straws and tie the ends of the string to one another.



2 Pour the bubble mix into the baking pan. Wetting your fingers first, hold one straw in each hand and dip the string and straws into the mixture for a couple of seconds.



3 Hold the straws as though they were a frame. Wave them around several times.



4 Pull the straws upward and bring them close together.

What happens:
You get a large bubble because you are adding a large amount of air when you wave the straw frame and pull the straws up. As this air pushes out in all directions, you pull apart the molecules of the soap film. But the molecules are attracted to one another, so the skin of the bubble contracts as much as it can to form the smallest surface for the air it contains, a sphere. That's why the bubble is round.

Bubble tips

- Stir gently so you don't whip up suds.(Suds are actually tiny bubbles.)
- Let the bubble mix stand for a day or two, if possible.
- Put the bubble mix in the refrigerator for a few minutes before using it. Your bubbles will last longer.
- For best results, blow bubbles on a rainy day; because there is more moisture in the air, the bubbles will last longer.

Bubble mix recipes

- Dishwashing detergent usually works well.
- More detergent than water creates giant bubbles.
- Add sugar or gelatin powder or glycerin to get longer-lasting bubbles. These substances slow the evaporation of water that dries the bubbles, making them pop.

SOURCE: Simple Science Experiments with Everyday Materials, Sterling Publishing Co.

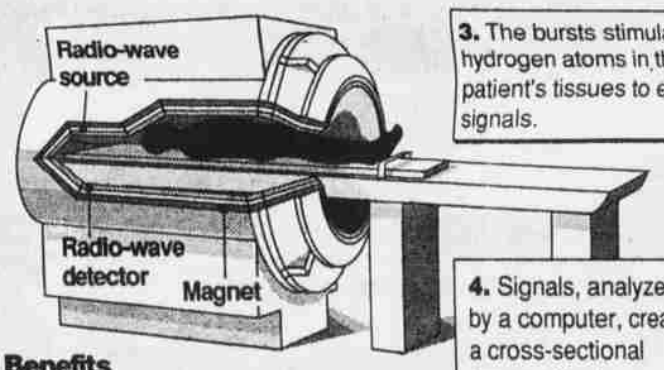
Nuclear magnetic resonance imaging

A painless diagnostic technique, nuclear magnetic resonance imaging has been used since the early 1980s.

How it works

1. A patient lies down in a cylinder surrounded by electromagnets.

2. Patient is exposed to short bursts of powerful magnetic fields and radio waves.



3. The bursts stimulate hydrogen atoms in the patient's tissues to emit signals.

4. Signals, analyzed by a computer, create a cross-sectional image of body structures and organs. A tumor emits a different signal than healthy tissue.

Benefits

- No radiation or injection of contrast dye
- Can image parts of the body previously hidden from view: pituitary gland, spinal chord, heart, brain
- Greater contrast between normal and abnormal tissues
- Outpatient procedure

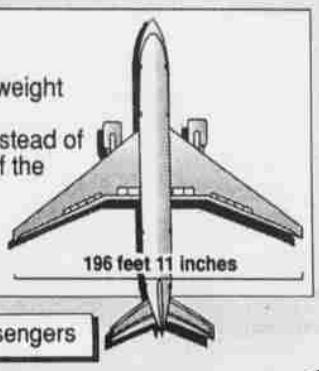
SOURCE: Chicago Tribune, "Encyclopedia of Medicine," American Medical Association

Boeing's new 777

The Boeing 777 ranks between the 767-300 and 747-400 in size and will be the world's largest two-engine passenger airliner.

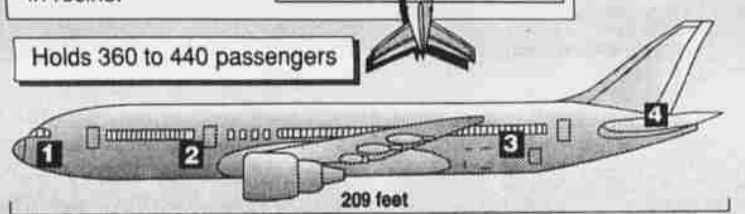
Trimming down

Boeing got significant weight savings by using new composite materials instead of metal for some parts of the 777. Composites are made of stiff carbon fibers embedded in resins.



4 Tail sections made of light weight composites

Holds 360 to 440 passengers

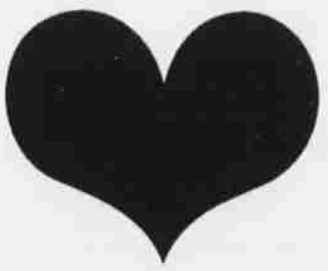


1 Latest technology in flight deck displays and wiring is more reliable; saves space, weight and power

2 Interior is five inches wider than today's wide body jets

3 Floor boards of passenger area made of light weight composites

Hey Chuck Martin,
Happy Birthday!



Love Always,
Laura

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TUESDAY: **A bottomless chili bowl**

WEDNESDAY: **Pizza - Pizza - Pizza**

THURSDAY: **Two-foot deli sandwich**

FRIDAY: **The Grande Fajitas Bar**

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