

Static Magic

What you need:

Balloon

Empty pop can

Paper towel

Plastic produce bag

Sweater or head of hair



Preparations:

1. First, cut the paper towel into the shape of a ghost. Lay the plastic bag flat, and cut a one inch strip so that you have a 1 inch ring of light plastic.
2. “Charge” your balloon by rubbing it all over your hair or your sweater.

Magic can rolling:

1. Lay the can on its side.
2. Hold the charged balloon next to the can without touching it.
3. Pull the balloon slowly away from the can, and the can will magically follow!

Ghost flying:

1. Lay the paper towel ghost on a table or counter.
2. Hold the charged balloon above it without touching it.
3. Slowly raise the balloon, and the ghost will magically fly!

Levitation:

1. Rub the plastic bag ring all over your head of hair or a sweater.
2. Throw the ring into the air (this takes some work - it will want to stick to you!).
3. Hold the charged balloon below the plastic ring. The fact that both are charged negatively means they will be repelled by each other, so the balloon will keep the plastic ring magically in the air!

<https://sciencebob.com/roll-a-can-with-static-electricity/>

<https://sciencebob.com/make-a-static-powered-dancing-ghost/>

<https://www.stevespanglerscience.com/lab/experiments/static-flyer-flying-bag/>

