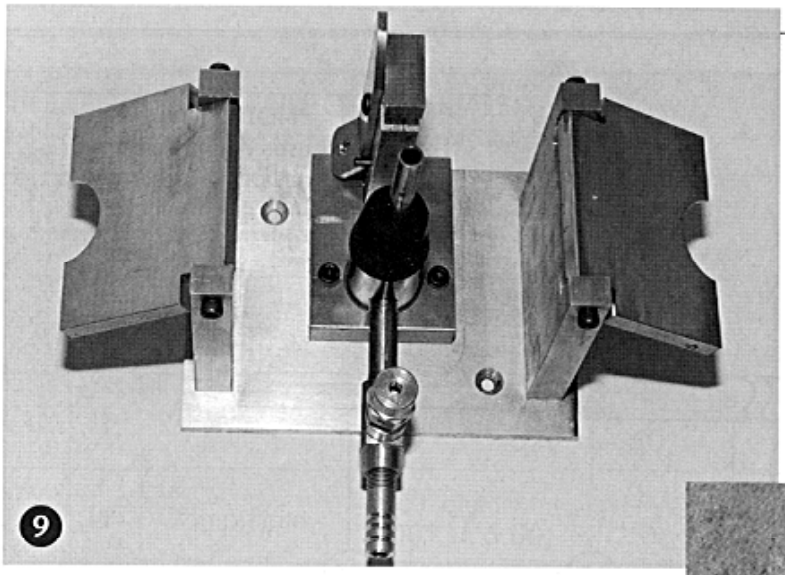

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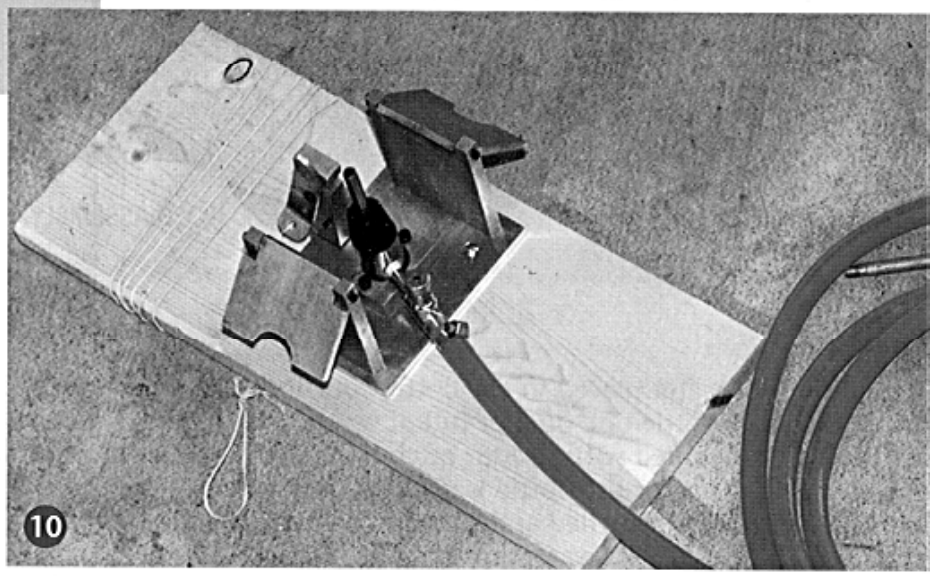
We limited the pressure applied to the bottle with a preset pressure relief valve set at 100 psi. I understand the bottles will withstand over 200 psi before rupturing but did not experiment to find out. A portable compressor was used to supply the air. When the pressure at the bottle reached 100 psi, the relief valve would blow off. At that point, we would pull the launch cord, launching our rocket subsequently spraying water on those standing too close to the launch site. Many bottles were launched at varying pressures, from 35 psi to 100 psi, and with different quantities of water. We did not try to calculate how high we were able to send the bottles but they appeared to approach 150 feet or better.

A parachute, made from a woman's handkerchief and some heavy thread attached to a nose cone, was also fastened to one of the rockets to slow its descent. I had a very enjoyable day watching the younger generation experiment and learn a little of aerodynamics. This bottle launcher was a weekend project that was enjoyable to make and to use. MW

Photos and drawings by Author



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