Whining Glasses
Investigation #8

Description
Get those glasses whining in concert!

Materials
• 2 similar glasses
• Water
• Vinegar

Procedure
1) Fill each glass with equal amounts of water.
2) Wet your index finger with vinegar and slowly rub the top of the other glass to produce a sound.
3) Slowly slide the glasses together so that the sides barely touch.
6) What do you notice?

My Results
Explanation
Rubbing the first glass creates a vibration that we can hear as sound. That sound wave also moves into the second glass. Hearing the sound and seeing the ripples in the first glass is evidence that sound waves will propagate in the air for us to hear, but also through the solid glass and liquid water. Once the glasses touch, that energy transfers through the solid of the first glass, making the second glass produce sounds as well. Because the glasses are the same and there is a similar amount of water, the two have similar natural frequencies.

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