ANTIBUBBLE GIZMO

Make this antibubble toy.

THE SETUP

Once you’ve met the challenge of making antibubbles in water, try making them in other liquids. Endless numbers of antibubbles and waves are easily produced in this portable, perpetual antibubble gizmo.

You will need:
• An olive jar (or any other tall, thin jar) and screw top
• Vegetable oil
• Rubbing alcohol
• Food coloring

Remove the label by soaking the jar in hot water. Wash and dry the jar. Pour oil into the jar until it is half full. Then add rubbing alcohol until the jar is as full as it can be. Put in a drop or two of food coloring.

Screw on the top. Check to make sure there are no air bubbles by turning the jar upside down. If there are bubbles, open the jar and add more rubbing alcohol.

Shake the jar and you will produce many patterns of antibubbles in the oil layer.

INSIDER INFORMATION

You know that you’ve produced true antibubbles in your gizmo for two reasons. Because the jar is full, there is no air present, so you can only produce a “liquid in a liquid” bubble. The food coloring detects the presence of rubbing alcohol which forms the skin.

The antibubble gizmo has no known practical value. However, staring at it has a mysterious soothing effect. Just be sure you don’t leave it where it might be mistaken for a soft drink.