FUEL CELL.

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PUSH the switch to the right.

TURN the handle and watch the display on the right.

WAIT a moment.

WATCH the left-hand display as you move the switch to the left.

On the left-hand side an electric current flows briefly and a small lamp glows. You stored the energy from turning the handle in the water (in the three transparent containers), and then used it again on the left side.

The energy that you put in to turning the handle is used to split up some water into its components - oxygen and hydrogen. The energy is stored in these gases. When you complete the electric circuit on the left-hand side, the oxygen and hydrogen combine again to make water, the energy is released, and an electric current flows.

This principle is used today in fuel cells. The biggest advantage is that there is no „exhaust“ except water – but only if you have a non-polluting way of making the hydrogen, like solar energy.

Idea and construction: Otto Lührs, Michael John.

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