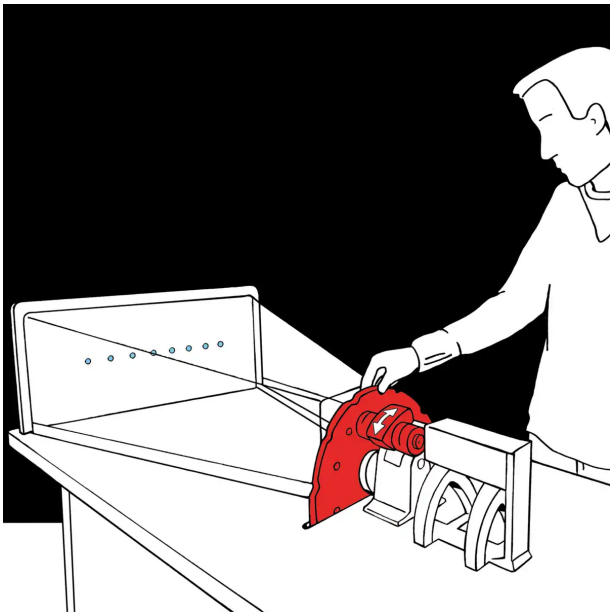
Diffraction With Laserlight

Can light shine around corners?



Turn the wheel slowly to move one of the ten openings between laser and projection wall and watch the resulting light patterns.

Switch the optics into the beam to enlarge the diameter of the beam.

Notice the change in the light patterns.

The experiment shows that light does not always propagate only in straight lines. It can bend around obstacles. This typical wave phenomena is called diffraction.

When light from one light source is diffracted simultaneously, e.g. at parallel lines, the diffracted waves add and subtract in certain directions which is called interference. The resulting light patterns depend on the shape of the obstacle.