

Making a flying saucer

Anyone can make "flying saucers" in a kitchen sink, according to Dr. Donald Menzel, who believes that they are mirages caused by an atmospheric condition.

This is his recipe: Fill the kitchen sink to the brim and set up a row of candles close to the edge of the sink, keeping your eye to the water surface and see the bright reflections.

Now have someone gently stir the water and produce waves. The lights will float and travel—and even show a disc-like form.

Dr. Menzel, who is an associate director of solar research at Harvard University, is preparing a series of experiments by which he hopes to make "flying saucers" appear at will in the sky.