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by jok church

**BEAKMAN JAX**

Google: hyperbolic arch

Dear Readers,  
 Beakman and I  
 get our eggs at  
 the Farmers  
 Market near our  
 home.  
 Jax Place  
 San Francisco, California

Beakman or Jax  
 1130 Walnut Street  
 Kansas City, MO 64106  
 Questions, name & address

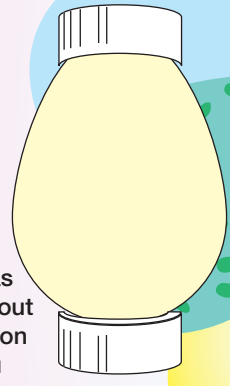
Eggs come in fabulous packaging, and I'm not talking about those horrible plastic foam cartons. I'm talking about the eggshell itself - nearly perfect as a container.

Look at the ends of an egg. They're built as arches - a shape that spreads out pressure or forces. We think of eggs as being *delicate* or *fragile*. But today's experiments will give you a whole new way to think about them.

Jax Place  
 Jax Place

**WHAT YOU NEED:** 3 eggs - 6 plastic water bottle caps - books

**WHAT TO DO:**  
 You can use either raw or hardboiled eggs for this. But you must make sure there are *no cracks* in the eggshells. Make 3 little egg/cap towers as in our drawing. Place them about 4 inches apart and lay a book on top. See how many books you



**WHAT YOU NEED:** Raw egg - your sweet self

**WHAT TO DO:**  
 Weave your fingers together as in our drawing. Hold the ends of the egg at the base of your thumbs. Now gently bring your 2 hands together as though your fingers were the hinge in a big clamp.



By the way, if you break a few eggs, the best thing to do is make an omelette.

Keep squeezing and gently increase the pressure - more and *more*. Don't jab or jerk. Increase the squeeze gradually.

**WHAT IS GOING ON:**  
 You probably couldn't break the egg. The arches spreading out the pressure over the whole eggshell is the reason why.

can add until an egg cracks. There will be a lot more books on that pile than you think is possible.

**WHAT IS GOING ON:**  
 The weight of the books was spread out over the eggs' arches - a very strong shape. Now that you're acquainted with the arch, let's try something a bit riskier.

