



# Disc Diffraction

**Aim** To determine the spacing of tracks on a disc using the diffraction of laser light

**Materials** 1 Disc 1 Laser 1 Metre Rule

**Method**

- The disc behaves like a diffraction grating.
- Diffracted beams are the result of constructive interference between light waves from tracks on the disc.
- Using geometry and the wavelength of the laser, determine the spacing of the tracks on the disc (give your answer in nm).

**Conditions**

- The laser must not be pointed at anything other than the disc.
- The laser must not be moved. The disc must not be rotated.
- Never stare directly at the laser beam.

**Time limit** 25 minutes

**Ranking** The ranking order will be determined by the difference between the distance given by the team and the correct value.

**Team**

**Result**

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Do not write below line

**Rank**