

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: Chemistry,
Density, Measurement

Materials List

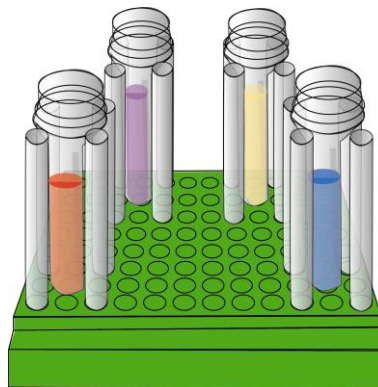
- ✓ Green pipette trays (AKA “green bases”)
- ✓ Straws, about 20 cm (8”) long
- ✓ Mini preforms
- ✓ Scissors with sharp pointed tips

This activity can be used to support the teaching of:

- Science & Engineering Practices (Next Generation Science Standards: Grades K-12)

Mini Preform Holder

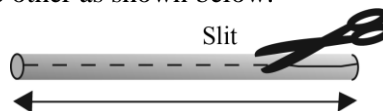
A RAFTy “test tube” rack



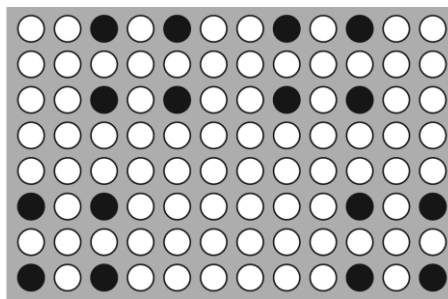
A variety of classroom experiments can be developed that use this easy to assemble RAFTy rack that can hold mini preforms or similarly shaped items.

Assembly

1. Slit straws lengthwise by inserting the tip of a sharp pair of scissors into one end of the straw. Then carefully slide the scissors’ tip along inside the straw from one end of the straw to the other as shown below.



2. Cut the straws in half. Four of these straw sections are needed to support each mini preform. The straws are inserted in the corners of a 3 x 3 grid of holes.
3. To insert a prepared straw, squeeze the end of the straw slightly to make it smaller than the hole in the pipette tray.
4. Use the pattern below to create a holder for 4 mini preforms. Other arrangements are also possible. A pipette tray can hold up to 6 mini preforms in 2 rows of 3.



5. Insert the mini preforms into the spaces between each group of 4 straws.

To Do and Notice

Students can use mini preforms for a variety of matter, chemistry, and density experiments, including both physical and chemical reactions. **Do not use preforms with hotplates, candles, or other sources of extreme heat!**

Web Resources (Visit www.raft.net/raft-idea?isid=224 for more resources!)