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TRY IT OUT

You'll have a ball (or three)

Goofing around the lab one night in 1986, a Cornell physics student laced three hex nuts onto a strand of dental floss, began playing, and couldn't stop. The creation evolved into **Astrojax** (\$7 to \$10), a toy that's a hit in Europe and is now shipping to stores like Toys "R" Us and Wal-Mart. The deceptively simple, highly addictive device consists of three weighted balls on a string. By holding one ball and using yo-yo-esque hand motions, an Astrojax player can send

the other two balls into vertical and horizontal orbits or a combo of spins, flip, and juggles. Rubbery Astrojax Plus is best for rebounding tricks; Astrojax V-Max (made of a harder polycarbonate) whizzes through the air at higher speeds. A light-up version, Astrojax Saturn, arrives this



fall. Judging by the flood of posts from Eurokids at astrojax.com, the only time players will stop is to share their latest tricks online. —V.H.

