

Capillary Motor

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For several decades the author has been organizing a contest for young inventors on the radio, television, in mass media and the Internet. There have been accumulated thousands of engineering solutions that belong to schoolchildren and youth. There are many original ones, including perpetual mobile. Though unfeasible in principle, they have interesting structure and competent engineering solutions.

For example, a child's dream to create an oblique roof over a city or field and direct the rain flow to a turbine to obtain mechanical work is of little use. But it's quite another matter if this child takes a pencil, a sheet of paper and tries to make a sketch or a drawing of such construction. Even if the construction is primitive and unfeasible, the child will get his first engineering experience and self-reliance.

I can still remember one peculiar case. Once the editors were instructed (it was in the times of the USSR) to assist an honored inventor of new machines. It was a Stalin Prize laureate, creator of a special type of lime that was widely applied in construction (I will not disclose his name). The inventor was given (that was not common practice) a large room in a shared apartment situated in a prestigious block of apartments in Moscow. It turned out that all room space, except for narrow passages at the walls, was occupied by a huge table. On the table up to the ceiling there were some pipelines, glass and metal vessels, retorts and other laboratory ware. The most impressive thing was retorts heated by gas coming through a hose from the shared kitchen. All that staff was bubbling, hissing and steaming. The inventor was creating a perpetual mobile!

I will give one more example of a situation common for the editors of the "Inventor and Rationalizer". Once we had a respectable-looking visitor who made an odd request to get the President of the French Academy of Sciences to respond to his letters about a perpetual mobile

plan. The essence of Alexander Rodionov's (Maloyaroslavets, Russia) invention was that "in accordance with Newton's and Guerin's laws fluid flows up through capillaries and turns a wheel when flowing down (see Fig.1).

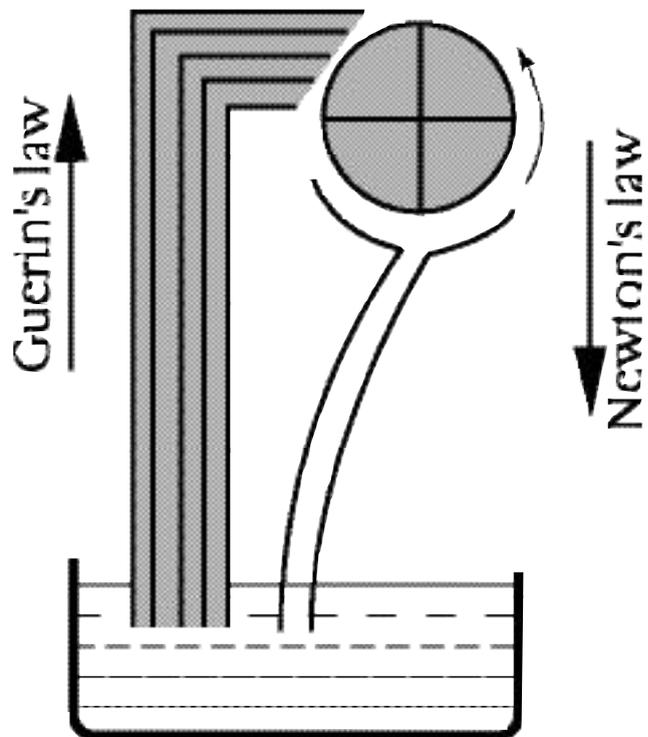


Fig. 1
Perpetuum-mobile

There are many similar projects in the history of engineering. Hence, this case may be considered as typical. We all know that the molecular adhesion forces (moistening) that push the fluid upwards will stick to it and the capillary motor will never work. But is the idea totally unfeasible? Since false modesty is inappropriate when it comes to perpetual mobile, I will present my ideas on this not so honorable subject for the reader's judgment.

It seems that all perpetual mobile inventors start not with a pencil and a sheet of paper but with experimenting on magnets, oblique plane, wicks, wheels, springs and other materials at hand. My first heat (perpetual) motor was also the result of an experiment.

The "Capillary" idea of Alexander Rodionov haunted me. I recalled that the great Lomonosov devoted lots of time to studying molecular adhesion and capillarity. They are present in everyday life, let alone the nature, especially in plants that would not be able to exist without them. How else would moisture flow up the trunks and stems? But, on the other hand, according to Mikhail V. Lomonosov's data, water flows up only for the maximum of several dozens of millimeters even through the thinnest capillary. But trees may have the height of several dozens of meters! If, as it is customarily considered, moisture flows from one capillary to another of its own accord, why not suppose that a capillary perpetual mobile is feasible? Explanations that moisture in plants flows up due to root pressure do not sound plausible. So where is the truth?

Years have passed since that visit of A. Rodionov. Now, just like I used to sympathize with, as it then seemed, a rather odd inventor, now my relatives sympathize with me. One can not blame them: for weeks and months there have been flowerpots all

around the apartment - on the tables, window-sills and bookstands. With bottles, tubes and self-made water manometers to follow.

Once, when I was assembling a device, I could not find two similar glass tubes and had to put in the tube of thin polyethylene. But no matter how hard I worked the water in the communicating vessels was at different levels. In the glass tube the water level was always higher. It could not be otherwise, if you come to think of it, but isn't it the right time the words "made of equally wettable material" were inserted into the communicating vessels law?

Here is a primitive experiment: make a hole in the bottom of a plastic flowerpot containing soil and a plant, and insert there one end of an elastic tube. The other end is inserted into the bottom of a plastic bottle containing water (see Fig. 3). In accordance with the communicating vessels law, the water will flow from the bottle into the flowerpot. When we see that the soil has been made wet, the experiment shall get more complicated: elevate the flowerpot so that its bottom is higher than the liquid level in the bottle. In some days we shall notice that the soil has not dried up and the water level in the bottle has lowered. One should not be a Solomon to guess that the soil or the roots of the plant transfer the water from the lower to the higher level. Here is a typical natural perpetual mobile!

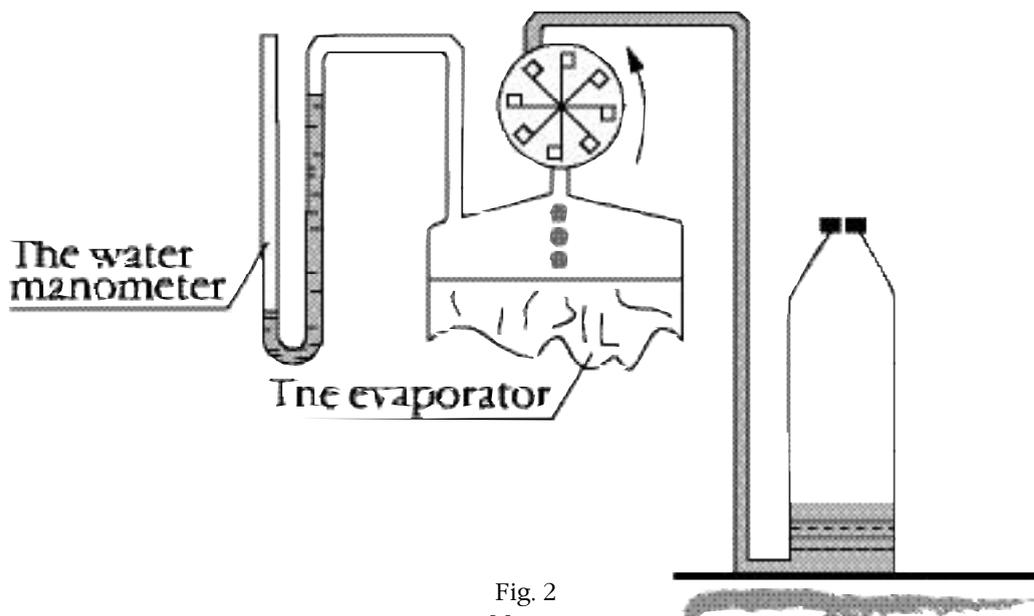


Fig. 2
Motor

It is no use referring to the molecular adhesion forces since they can not be applied at such height differences. What is it then? A molecular collision as in a boiling kettle? But a leaf has neither high temperature nor much space. Nevertheless, water evaporates both from the soil and leaf surfaces. At the same time there is rarefaction under the evaporating surface. Can it be the rarefaction that pulls up new portions of water?

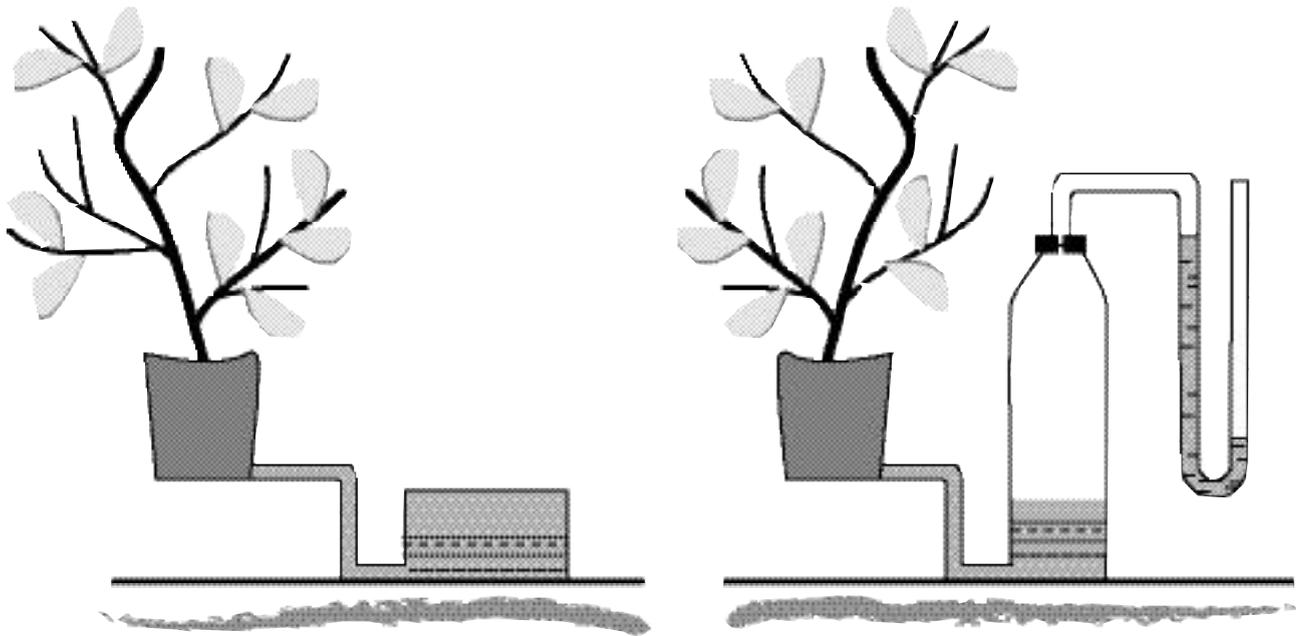


Fig. 3
Rarefaction

Let us make the experiment still more complicated. Put the leg pipe of a liquid manometer into the bottle cork. (Fig. 3) Almost immediately the water level in the closest leg to the bottle will start rising. It means that there is rarefaction in the bottle. Can it be the rarefaction that "rules" the plants?

Most likely, the essence of the mistake made by Rodionov and other authors of capillary motors consisted in attempts to get the water outflow from the capillary. **If it is not flowing out but evaporating, as it is common for the soil or plants, then, probably, vacuum will manifest itself and the capillary perpetual mobile will start working.**

I made my first capillary perpetual mobile many years ago (see Fig. 4). And it worked: though slowly, the wheel was steadily turning. No doubt, it was due to the heat inflow from the air. Therefore, such motor will work if there is a temperature difference and relative humidity of surrounding air is below 100%.

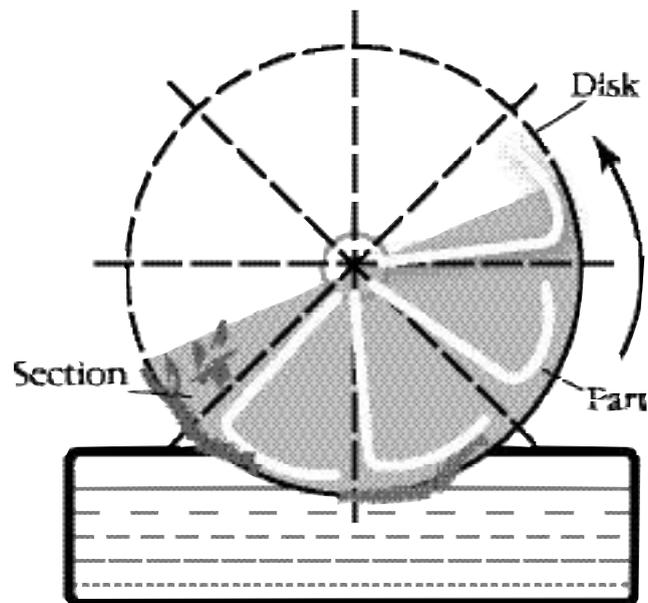


Fig. 4
Capillary Motor

The heat motor operating principle is clear from this figure. The disk (many disks on the common axis) is divided into isolated sections. Their surface is covered with a moisture-proof piece of material (filtered paper, cloth, etc.). The part of each section somewhat gets under the base of the next one. Hence, a small part of the base of one section and a part of the part following the section can get into water simultaneously. Due to the capillary moistening the section and the part will start to absorb water. Since the section is shifted about the center of gravity, the turning moment is bound to appear. The section that is out of water starts to dry up, the moment will increase and the wheel will start turning.

Having determined that, though slowly, the motor is turning, the author applied to a patent authority for a patent on the invention of the "Perpetual mobile", meaning it as a joke. I hoped that the experts (I knew some of them personally) will understand this joke. But, unexpectedly, the device was considered an invention, though under the

name of the "Heat motor" (certificate of authorship USSR # 1455040).

Basically, the motor is similar to the project of A. Rodionov. I would not be surprised if he protested. The same capillaries and the spontaneous rise of liquid on the moisture-proof material. The only difference is that the liquid does not flow out but evaporates from the capillaries.

Almost without any reason - one can not predict his eccentricities - I have recently made one more capillary motor (see Fig. 3). Perhaps, it resulted from my experiments with plants. This motor directly and spontaneously lifts water to a higher level, which is more convincing. Moreover, water flows in the form of drops (or a stream) and turns the propeller! The motor is quite operable and has even been shown on TV. But do not try to verify it on your own - such work is useless without certain know-how. The author would not like to disclose the "secret" yet. I could still make a patent application.



The Continuous Rotation Device

The essence of this invention is that in a closed circle the rotation of the object occurs without any outer influence or any power sources (electric energy, oil, diesel oil, etc.), which results in the rotation of the rotating part of the device. The torque can be easily enhanced by means of transmitting it to the reduction system. At that rate, the necessary rotation speed and rotation power can be acquired.

The device is small, easy to transport, mobile (both, in operation and switch-off), simple and inexpensive to make and assemble. It is economical, ecological and weather independent.

The device can be used in any industrial or household appliance field where the continuous rotation is required. It is especially

important to note that this device can be used to generate energy on a large industrial scale as well as in small laboratories, in mountains and remote districts, in tunnels, at sea, etc. for it does not require any power lines.

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