UNIT: CATAPULT

ENGINEERING PRODUCT REVIEW: “THE APEX MINI CATAPULT”

From the moment we tested the Apex Mini Catapult, it was clear this wasn’t your average classroom model. Compact, efficient, and surprisingly powerful, this small machine turns every physics lesson into a hands-on thrill.

Built with a sleek wooden frame and adjustable launch arm, the Apex allows students to explore projectile motion, energy transfer, and force without needing complex tools. The rubber band tension system gives just the right amount of control, making it ideal for beginner engineers.

“This catapult isn't just a toy—it's a precision learning tool,” says Dr. Elena Moss, a STEM education specialist. “It helps students visualize Newton’s Laws in action.”

One of the most impressive features is its consistency. During our tests, it launched a 10-gram clay ball an average of 4.3 meters, varying by less than 0.2 meters over five trials. That’s a level of repeatability we don’t often see in student-made models.

However, the design isn’t perfect. The base, while stable indoors, struggles a bit on uneven surfaces. A wider support structure or added weights might solve that issue.

Still, for under $10 per kit, the Apex delivers both quality and educational value. It sparks curiosity and encourages experimentation, which is what science education should be all about.