



Slotnick Swirl® Introduction

Hello!

Thank you for your interest in using the "Slotnick Swirl®."

The Swirl® is designed to provide an opportunity for flat fusion and binocular lustre with biofeedback. It is a simple, circular target. You can think of it as a very large muscle light, with a twist. :)

What makes this activity effective also presents a level of risk.

There are TWO major concerns you need to be aware of when using this tool:

1. It is a relatively passive anti-suppressive device.

That is, constant motion over the macula makes it very difficult for a viewer to continue to suppress an eye with this condition.

For this reason, it is **CRITICAL** that the target be viewed with dissociating filters (RB or RG) to create an unnatural viewing environment. You do not want the patient to transfer simultaneous perception to the real world until they can establish fusion. Otherwise, you run a strong risk of creating diplopia.

2. If you use prisms to help a patient experience fusion/lustre, you should try to make sure that they can leave your office with prism in their glasses to facilitate fusion. That is, **HAVE SOME FRESNEL PRISMS ON HAND.**

If you wait to order prism based on your in-office experimentation, you **RUN THE RISK** of having the patient leave, and following a nice brain-harmonizing experience of binocular perception, they start functioning binocularly... but with visual axes misaligned. This is a recipe for helping a patient to establish Anomalous Projection (AP). AP is not a bad adaptation, but it would be preferable to avoid AP as an interim step requiring more challenging remediation.

Using this technique, I have had patients go directly from Esotropia with NP ... to flat fusion with NP and prism... and then built up their motor ranges/ reduced the prism. Yes, I have had patients with strabismus come to establish RDS stereo after this technique.

=====



How to operate the Slotnick Swirl® program:

This is a standard powerpoint, designed using Microsoft 2003.
(You may need to use a compatibility converter if it does not work immediately.)

Open the program. Then View Show (shortcut is F5, or menu "Slideshow" --> View Show).

The first slide should switch to full screen, and it should be spinning.

This is intended for binocular viewing with red-blue (or red-green) glasses.
The additional slides present accommodative targets, but should only be used once the viewer has well-established lustre and fusional ranges.

This is just a simple tool. The doctor (or therapist) really is doing all the work in arranging conditions and monitoring the patient. A youtube playlist version is available to send it home with the patient so that they can work with the quality and range of fusion from home. You may cue the patient to switch the view to high definition to improve quality.

Use it well, and please use it safely!

Best regards,
Dr. Samantha Slotnick