

What is an electromagnet?

Electromagnet - a magnet made from a current bearing coil of wire wrapped around an iron or steel core.

Current is stronger flowing through a loop than a straight wire. A single wire wrapped into a cylindrical wire coil is called a solenoid.

Properties of Electromagnets

- * they are temporary
- * their strength can be increased with more coils
- * their properties can be changed by changing the current
- * they can be turned on and off





What is a galvanometer?

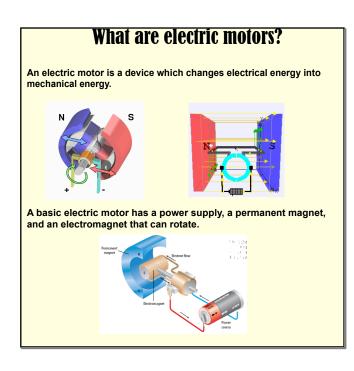
A **galvanometer** is an electromagnet that interacts with a permanent magnet. The stronger the electric current passing through the electromagnet, the more it interacts with the permanent magnet.



The galvanometer includes a permanent magnet, an electromagnet that rotates against a spring, and a scale that measures current.

Galvanometers are used as gauges in cars and many other applications.

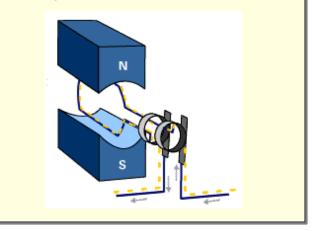
The greater the current passing through the wires, the stronger the galvanometer interacts with the permanent magnet.



Electromagnetic Induction

Moving a loop of wire through a magnetic field produces electric current. This is electromagnetic induction.

A Generator is used to convert mechanical energy into electrical energy by electromagnetic induction.



Direct current versus Alternating current

Direct current is electrical current which comes from a battery which supplies a constant flow of electricity in one direction.

Alternating current is electrical current which comes from a generator. As the electromagnet is rotated in the permanent magnet the direction of the current alternates once for every revolution.