

Flipping Physics Lecture Notes:

The Right Hand Rule for Angular Velocity and Angular Displacement

Step #1) Don't be too cool for the Right Hand Rule.

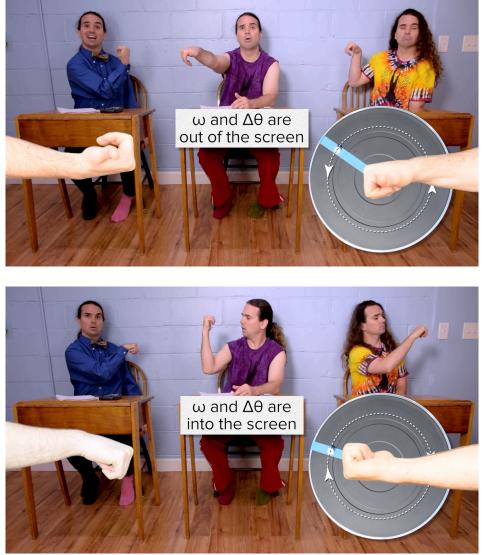
Step #2) Limber Up! (Not kidding. You have to rotate your hips and shoulders sometimes when doing the right hand rule) Step #3-1) Take the fingers of your right hand.

Step #3-2) Curl your fingers in the direction of the turning motion of the object.

Step #3-3) Stick out your thumb.

Step #3-4) Your thumb indicates the direction of the object's angular velocity and angular displacement.

Two examples:



Note: Clockwise and counterclockwise are observer dependent directions. The direction that results from the Right Hand Rule is not observer dependent. This is one of the reasons we use the Right Hand Rule in physics to determine the direction of angular displacement and angular velocity.

Also note: The direction of the angular displacement and angular velocity of a turning object is perpendicular to the plane in which the object is located.