

ROAD CASES



WHO YOU GONNA CALL? MYTHBUSTERS!

Each weekly installment of the Discovery Channel program *Mythbusters* sets out to do what its title implies: prove or debunk popular legends via scientific (and entertaining) means. Over the past year, the gang at Meyer Sound has assisted the show's hosts – gadgetry freaks Adam Savage and Jamie Hyneman – with two projects related to sound.

First, Meyer Staff Scientist Dr. Roger Schwenky helped them confront the legend that a duck's quack doesn't echo. (What do you think? And "it doesn't" is not an acceptable answer!)

Later, the *Mythbusters* team returned to address a decidedly more delicate subject: the existence of a low-frequency vibration, which when reproduced at sufficient volume, resonates with the depths of the human digestive tract to cause what is medically termed "involuntary gastrointestinal motility."

Different versions of the myth place the "magic" frequency between 5 Hz and 20 Hz, and recent variations even claim that the effect has been produced at loud concerts. Schwenky and John Meyer devised a special test and measurement system in order to check out the theory at levels far beyond that experienced at any concert, and at lower frequencies.

You can find more specifics about the testing methodology on the Meyer web site (www.meyersound.com). The results? You'll have to watch the show! *Mythbusters* airs on the Discovery Channel on Wednesday evenings at 8 pm (ET/PT). And yes, the live evaluation did involve the use of Depends brand adult diapers...



SHALL WE PLAY A GAME?

Tom Van Baak is an interesting fellow, as evidenced by his web site "Leap Second" (www.LeapSecond.com), dedicated to precise time and frequency. Or, as Tom describes it, "One man's quest for the most accurate clock."

Over the past decade, this pursuit has taken Tom on a most interesting journey into electronics, horology, astronomy, test equipment, quartz oscillators, rubidium and cesium atomic clocks, hydrogen masers, frequency counters and phase comparators, GPS, radio receivers and more.

And along the way, he came up with a "do it yourself" chess set using common connectors many of you probably

have laying around. Time to put them to good use!

Tom's ingredients: 50-ohm BNC, SMA, and N terminators with various BNC, SMA, N, APC7, F, UHF connectors and inter-series adapters, along with any other RF connectors. "White" pieces are nickel or stainless steel, while "black" have gold top pieces.

