

NOTEWORTHY, VIDEO

DAS PERPETUUM MOBILE RÄTSEL

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Ein kleines wissenschaftliches Rätsel aus den Tiefen von Youtube

Wenn es kein primitiver Fake ist, wie ein versteckter Motor in der Nabe, Stellgewichte am Radlauf, Solarpanel in den Zylindern oder dass das Rad durch Druckluft aus dem Kasten darunter angeblasen wird, dann tippe ich am ehesten auf Peltier Elemente am Ende der "Sterling Zylinder". Peltier Elemente könnten Strom durch den Wärmefluss im Kasten erzeugen, der dann selbst wieder ein Wirbelstromfeld an der extrem leichtlaufendem Felge aufbaut, etwas nach dem [Prinzip der Atmosphären Uhr](#) oder auch den [Magic Lights](#).

Aber gut, was sollen die [Spekulation](#)? David [Jones](#) können wir nicht mehr fragen, die [Protokolle geben es auch nicht her](#) und das Museum wird es uns sicher auch nicht verraten.

- Man müsste den Kasten mal abdecken und eine Gopro unter die Abdeckung stellen, wann das Rad stehen bleibt.
- Eine zusätzliche Kamera in dem Raum, was sonst so alles in dem Raum passiert.
- Mal die Lüftungslöcher mit Knete kurz verstopfen.
- Einen kabellosen Fön an den Kasten halten.
- Einen Kompass / Multimeter dranhalten: Gibt es Magnetismus oder ein Induktionsfeld?
- Stichwort [Mechanical Doping](#).
- Mit Leitungsprüfer den Boden um den Kasten herum abfahren.
- Wärmebild des Kastens machen, zB mit [Seek Thermal Vorsatz](#).
- Mit Richtmikrofon oder Stethoskop abhören.

Leider wird das Ergebnis dann ernüchternd sein, [wie mit allen Zauberkicks](#).

I. Fraudulous

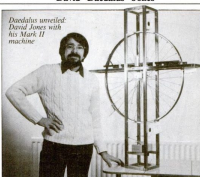
Daedalus's fake "perpetual motion machines" have exasperated many scientists, engineers and students. Our apocryphal friend has divined much of the strength and weaknesses of their thinking from his machinations. He finally comes clean

David "Daedalus" Jones

MY CAREER as a self-confessed fraud and charlatan began in January 1981. That was when New Scientist approached me for an exhibit to display on its stand at the British Association meeting in York that September. On the spur of the moment I suggested: "I'll build you a 'fake' perpetual-motion machine. You can run a competition on how it works." And so it was arranged.

Perpetual motion is, of course, one of the classic impossibilities of science. Every real mechanism needs a source of energy which, sooner or later, must run out. I had undertaken to invent a scientific conjuring trick, a machine whose source of energy and mode of action were carefully concealed. The task was well within the mainstream of my activities—for events have devised and built scientific demonstrations for exhibitions and TV programmes. The mental deceptions that comes from writing my weekly "Daedalus" column was also clearly going to be exposed, in fact, I saw the machine very much as a public DREADCO exhibit.

It took some time to appreciate the true nature of the challenge. My original intention was for some extremely



Daedalus unveiled David Jones with his March 11 machines

Simply hiding the drive-mechanism was quite the wrong strategy: the machine had to furnish misleading clues to a wide variety of possible mechanisms. I soon devised a new and rather subtle drive-system for the machine—whose moving element was an adapted bicycle wheel—but I complicated it with a number of cunning distinctions, each designed to lead the scientific mind along one or other of several false trails. The completed machine first ran just 24 hours before it was due on display at York. Bearing its proud DREADCO label, it ran faultlessly for the whole week of the British Association meeting and later in a subsidiary New Scientist competition) for a month at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. Well over 100 competitors tried to deduce the mechanism. Greatly to my surprise and relief, nobody got it right; the prize went to the closest and most cogently reasoned entries.

I thought I had fooled them. The Mark II fake perpetual-motion machine attracted a lot of attention. Soon after, some American clients said they wanted one too. So I began work on a Mark II model. It retained the central bicycle wheel but worked on quite a new

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With the insight of desparation, I realised that the crucial task of any conjuring trick is not to conceal but to confuse ...

Other engineers had great difficulty in coming to terms with all window-dressing. Such honest individuals clearly found it hard to conceive of a machine of which large sections serve no useful purpose.

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