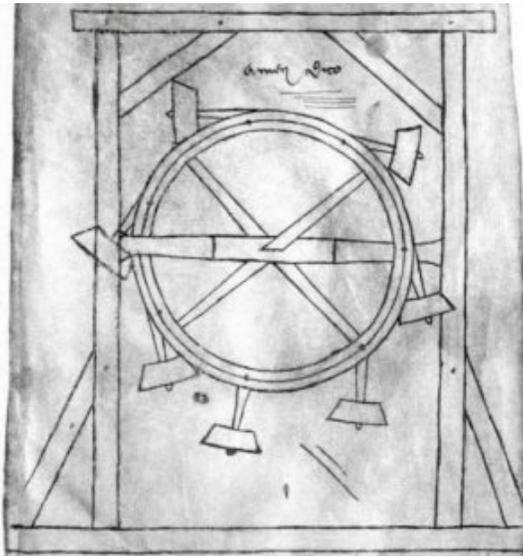

Bad Science: Perpetual Motion

There have been countless claims by **quacks** for the last 1200 years that machines could be built that would:

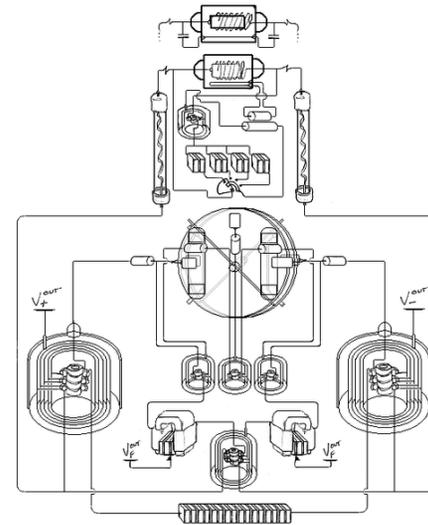
- Provide energy with no energy input
- Produce more energy than what was input into the system

Both are clear violations of the 1st law of thermodynamics!



Perpetuum Mobile of Villard de Honnecourt (about 1230)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_perpetual_motion_machines



The "Testatika" by Paul Bauman, a German engineer. The device's operation has been recorded as far back as 1960s at a place called Methernitha (near Berne, Switzerland). Supposedly, the community benefits from the invention. [38]

“Free Energy” Scams

There have also been many claims by con-artists who have claim to have built modern perpetual motion machines or technology that mysteriously extracts energy from the rotation of the earth, magnetic field of the earth, zero-point energy in vacuums, etc.

Example: Check out <http://www.steorn.com>

- \$100,000 USD ad in “*The Economist*” claiming that this technology is developed, and they want a panel of scientists to test its validity (all test results will be held secret)
- Scientist identities have not been revealed
- Work not submitted for **peer review**, nor has been it been revealed in any form to the academic/research community at large
- Incredible PR stunt, no science: the science of the con is to remove you from your wallet as quickly as possible!

Pseudoscience & Voodoo science

- Most well-trained scientists are extremely skeptical, as theory, experimentation and proof of concept are key elements of proper science

Pseudosciences:

parapsychology, homeopathy, phrenology, perpetual motion, flat earth, creation science/intelligent design, quantum mysticism, etc.

- Comment from a “conspiracy theorist”: “*modern scientists are more like priests defending an orthodoxy than individuals of an inquiring mind and their primary function is to defend and protect the world view of an extremely conservative society*” - this is of course the classic excuse of all crackpots for the past 500 years.

Every practicing scientist knows that that the scientific establishment has organized methods for giving great glory and honor to people who overturn it, and science is all about **self-correction**.

- Aphorism: “*Keep an open mind, but not so open that your brains fall out.*”

Pseudoscience & Voodoo science, 2

- **Voodoo science**, is a *pejorative neologism* referring to research that falls short of adhering to the scientific method

From: Robert Park, *Voodoo Science*:

- *pathological science*, genuine scientists deceive themselves
- *junk science*, speculative theory and jargon intended to bamboozle
- *pseudoscience*, the supernatural is invoked for explanation
- *fraudulent science*, exploiting bad science to commit fraud

Signposts (taken from thousands of cases): *It is too good/simple to be true.*

1. Discoverers make their claims directly to the popular media, rather than to fellow scientists (no peer review, no evaluation by objective peers).
2. Discoverers claim that a conspiracy has tried to suppress the discovery.
3. There is a secret ingredient or component whose function is hidden or not explained.
4. The claimed effect is so weak that it can barely be distinguished from noise. No amount of further work increases the effect, and quantifications of the effect are vague; nothing can be explained.
5. Anecdotal evidence (testimonials) & investments back up the discovery.
6. Ancient wisdom/tradition supports/explains the discovery.
7. The discoverer(s) are not from the mainstream scientific community.
8. The discovery, if true, requires that our understanding of the fundamental laws of nature is changed.

Anatomy of a scam

How this 12inch miracle tube could halve heating bills

Amazing British invention creates MORE energy than you put into it - and could soon be warming your home. - *Daily Mail, London, U.K., September 15, 2007*

It sounds too good to be true - not to mention the fact that it violates almost every known law of physics.

But British scientists claim they have invented a revolutionary device that seems to 'create' energy from virtually nothing.

Their so-called thermal energy cell could soon be fitted into ordinary homes, halving domestic heating bills and making a major contribution towards cutting carbon emissions.



Even the makers of the device are at a loss to explain exactly how it works - but sceptical independent scientists carried out their own tests and discovered that the 12in x 2in tube really does produce far more heat energy than the electrical energy put in.

The device seems to break the fundamental physical law that energy cannot be created from nothing - but researchers believe it taps into a previously unrecognised source of energy, stored at a sub-atomic level within the hydrogen atoms in water.

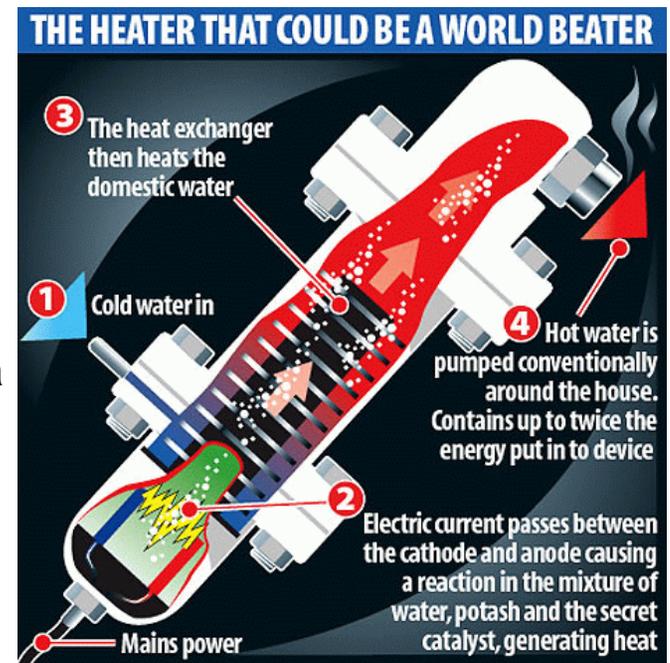
Anatomy of a scam, 2

The system - developed by scientists at a firm called Ecowatts in a nondescript laboratory on an industrial estate at Lancing, West Sussex - involves passing an electrical current through a mixture of water, potassium carbonate (otherwise known as potash) and a secret liquid catalyst, based on chrome.

This creates a reaction that releases an incredible amount of energy compared to that put in. If the reaction takes place in a unit surrounded by water, the liquid heats up, which could form the basis for a household heating system.

Jim Lyons, of the University of York, independently evaluated the system [[former engineer, at a business school now, quote from his page: "My research area is in the field of non-locality of Consciousness. The emerging new models describing an active Aether can begin to account for many phenomena such as Healing, Synchronicity, Psychometry etc, currently not even considered in mainstream Science."](#)]

The device has taken ten years of painstaking work by a small team at Ecowatts' tiny red-brick laboratory, and bosses predict a household version of their device will be ready to go on sale within the next 18 months. The project, which has cost the company £1.4million, has the backing of the Department of Trade and Industry, which is keen to help poorer families without traditional central heating or who cannot afford rocketing fuel bills.



Anatomy of a scam, 3

The development of the groundbreaking technology results from a chance meeting between Ecowatts chairman Chris Davies, his wife Jane and an Irish inventor, Christopher Eccles, while the couple were on holiday near Shannon in 1998.

After the inventor showed the couple his laboratory experiments, Mrs Davies, immediately signed a £20,000 cheque on the bonnet of her car and handed it over to Mr Eccles.

He later became chief scientist of Ecowatts' parent company Gardner Watts, but has since left after 'falling out' with the company, according to insiders. Sadly, Mrs Davies died three years ago, so she will be unable to share in the success of her husband's development of the idea.

Sustainable energy expert Professor Saffa Riffat, of Nottingham University, has also led a team investigating the system. He said: 'The concept is very interesting and it could be a major breakthrough, but more tests are required. We will be doing further checks.'

[He has been involved with testing for quite awhile - nothing published, no patents, no further news...]

http://www.dailymail.co.uk/pages/live/articles/technology/technology.html?in_article_id=481996&in_page_id=1965

- This whole article is basically a PR vehicle for a company with the sole intent of separating money from investors pockets! This is only one example of fraudulent science of hundreds of such cases.