

Sorensen Sez...

Doc Gene Patronis sort of peripherally introduced us to some really big numbers in his last piece...like Avogadro's Number... 6.02×10^{23} .

I like numbers that have exponents because they sound so scientific and real science guys just sort of flip them out with a grace and ease that's truly enviable.

One of the nifty things about scientific-notation, which is what the "big number" stuff is called, is that it lets us discuss the complex concepts that Doc was trying to present in a way that's swallowable. Otherwise it'd be like trying to write out a symphony in narrative rather than using musical notes. You'd be buying Beethoven by the pound.

Dr. Paul Dirac, one of the leading thinkers in cosmology and quantum theory of last century was also known for being a very slow talker. In fact some of his students came up with Dirac's Number which is 1.00 phrases per fortnight. Actually Dirac's Number is 1.0018 which was later refined to be 1.00159 by researchers like Feynman and others. It's nice to know that when one speaks slowly, one is doing so with great precision. (I think I remember my Dad telling me something like that.)

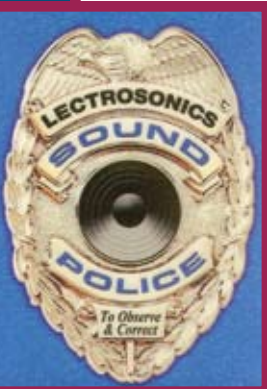
Actually Dirac's number has to do with the magnetic moment of the electron which is a subject that's very hard to introduce into everyday conversation.

Dirac also had another number describing the ratio of size and force named for him which is 10^{40} or 10^{-40} depending upon which end of the universe you're looking from. That means that if you're discussing the magnetic moment of an electron with someone you use the first Dirac Number but if you're discussing the relationship between the speed of light and the size of the universe, you use the second Dirac Number, facing toward the person or away depending upon which exponential value you wish to use. Easy, no?

I have always favored relating things to dogs. My late pet, Amanda Wayne, a very nice, very old lady Black-Golden Labretreivador was about 18 of our years old when she went to the Great Dog Park which set her odometer at 133 dog-years...a ripe old age. Gee. That makes me over 420 dog-years old! I'm not sure I like working in "Dog" -- of course, I might think differently if I could just figure out how to get paid in Dog...



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You have the right to make sound. Any sound you make can and will be held against you in the eyes of your audio peers.

You have the right to EQ. If you cannot EQ, someone will be provided to EQ for you.

You have the right to set up proper gain structure. Failure to set proper gain can result in loss of all audio rights.

You can not and will not be allowed to purchase or use modifications to the laws of physics.

You can not sell modifications to the laws of physics - doing so shall cause you to wear a vest and name tag to work.

You have the right to buy \$2000 speaker cable. If you do, however, you will be mocked.

Failure to understand these rights may result in forfeiture of access to all knobs marked "Gain", "Trim", "LF", "Pre", "Level", etc plus forfeiture of any and all tweakers in your possession.