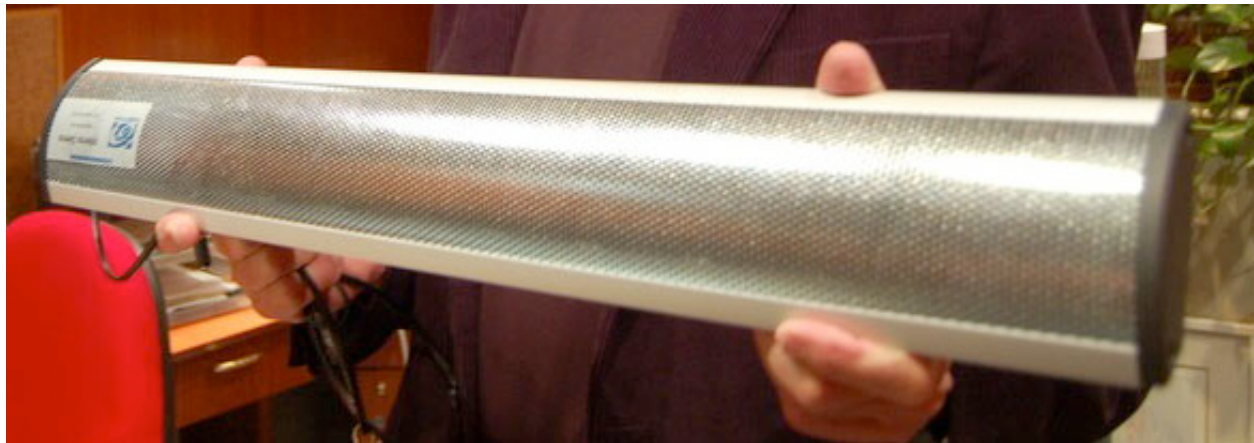


Inferno speaker blaster makes you vomit.

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Inferno is a "sonic barrier," a long metallic speaker that generates a sound made of four frequencies between 2 and 5 kilohertz. The sound itself is 125dB, which is much louder than a typical alarm, and according to Danger Room's Sharon Weinberger, it's *"the most unbearable, gut-wrenching noise I've ever heard in my life."* It was a very quick exposure but Sharon says that it was a lot worse than the Pentagon pain ray. We talked with Dr. Maurice Goldman, managing director for the company in the US, about the uses and cost of these devices.



"Being a guinea pig for a sonic ray was truly a whole lot worse than being a guinea pig for the pain ray. I would happily volunteer again to be hit by the Pentagon's pain ray. It was fun, like being Bugs Bunny dancing around when Elmer Fudd tries to shoot him. I never, ever again want to be hit by the Inferno" says Sharon, but while the sensation was unbearable, she actually didn't experience the extreme reactions that this sound will cause if you are exposed to it for a longer time: vertigo, nausea, and discomfort in the chest.

The device is designed to work with security systems, making people leave a protected area immediately. Their site shows many different models, which can be installed inside or outside shops and cargo vans.



If you are wondering if this is really a good deterrent against thieves, have no doubts about it. Apparently, Inferno is so effective that Swedish manufacturer Indusec just landed a contract with the Russian government to install the sound bars in nuclear weapon depots using the InfernoX (above) which is the same you can install in your own factory or warehouse. Meanwhile, big companies like UK-based chemist super-chain Boots, are also installing the smaller devices throughout all of their shops.

The good thing about Inferno is that, although it will stop anyone from entering an area, they won't injure them (or you.) According to a study on the Inferno by the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, only if you experience repeated exposures to this kind of noise or if the sound pressure is more than 130dB, could your ears be damaged. Inferno, the paper concludes, doesn't pose any risk of hearing damage since it's "only" 125dB.

Just in case, I won't try it.