

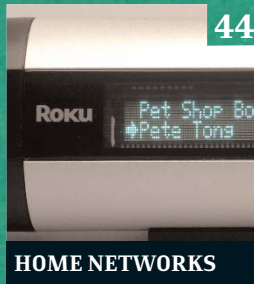
# [testing, testing]



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Tests on the first of a new generation of energy-efficient driers



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## MATTRESSES

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Considering how they're normally used, testing mattresses is a surprisingly noisy business. The loudest clatter comes from the machine that sweeps across each mattress 60,000 times with a massive roller. This week-long test simulates a 20-stone person rolling around for about 10 years and helps us understand how much a mattress will sag or change firmness.

But it doesn't stop there. Every mattress spends more than 15 hours in a sinister-looking metal chamber while we check how well it deals with the 'micro-climate' of a sleeping person – in other words, with a night's worth of sweat.

Another fiendish machine sticks an array of metal pins into the mattress. These record the exact alignment of a body that's lying on it and check that it provides correct support.

The only pretty part of the testing comes when we create person-shaped colour charts that tell us how much pressure each part of the body will feel. But then it's back to more destructive methods – each mattress is stripped and cut open to check for damage from all this abuse.