

Seven Deadly Sips

Which energy drink works best?

WORDS JEREMIAH J. SHAW ILLUSTRATION BRIAN DICKEY

WIINGS | In a rigorous scientific process that would embarrass Sir Isaac Newton himself, we forced technology writer Jeremiah J. Shaw to drink one energy drink every night at 11 p.m. for seven days. The following are his reviews of each concoction, based on overall can appearance, taste, ingredients, amount of energy produced (expressed in RPMs) and recommended activities after consumption. *ENVY* does not recommend the use of these products in such a manner on any human being, living or dead. That's why we had Jeremiah do it.

1 RPM - 0

STARBUCKS DOUBLES HOT ENERGY

Appearance - Like a swollen shotgun shell, tagged with corporate graffiti.

Taste - A sugary, coffee-flavored milkshake for early-risers. Although easily the best tasting drink I tested.

Active Ingredients - I understood three of them, one of which was "purified water."

RPM - 0. Fell asleep in minutes and slept through the night like a chubby, narcoleptic baby after a Vicodin. "Ba-ba."

Recommended Activities - Long, leisurely naps in a hammock.

2 RPM - 2

RED BULL

Appearance - Cylindrical, unassuming can that is the identical size and shape as other energy drinks available on the market, but with a couple of stylized angry red bovines.

Taste - A close second in the taste category. Desperately needed vodka though.

Active Ingredients - Taurine. Which, by the way, is what bile is primarily comprised of.

RPM - 2. Fell asleep at roughly 1 a.m. Noticed some minor restlessness in my feet, but this was possibly attributable to having "Panda Panda Panda" by Deerhoof stuck in my head.

Recommended Activities - Dressing up like a Chupacabra and throwing yourself off a 30-foot cliff. (See "Red Bull Flugtag.")

3 RPM - 4

BAWLS

Appearance - Lovely blue glass bottle with small "spikes" sticking out of it. Not entirely unlike a prickly Zima.

Active Ingredients - Guarana. Obviously, this is how bats stay awake all night.

RPM - 4. Shortly after drinking, I had an overwhelming desire to play online video games. Neighbor called police at 4 a.m. due to "gunfire, explosions and the repeated screaming of obscenities, followed by the word 'nub' coming through the wall."

Recommended Activities - Anything requiring superhuman reflexes—like playing CounterStrike against teenagers.

