

# THE EQUINOX FILTER

by Andrew Chaikin

The Equinox Filter\* was created in 2046 to detect alien nucleobases in strings of DNA. In the test results below, terrestrial bases (**A, C, G, T**) are shown as underlines; alien bases (all other letters) are shown as boxes. The answers are in alphabetical order.

                    

              

            

               

               

                

               

             

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- Bach or Brahms composition
- By whatever means are available
- Casino card game played by 007
- Eye infirmity found in the aged
- Imelda Marcos' tongue
- Immobile due to mental disorder
- Interjection heard after a prank
- Killer tomatoes do it
- Legal document of 1215
- Lightbulb measurement
- March of the Penguins* locale
- Obscure slur that undid a 2006 Senate campaign
- Opposites do it
- Rummy-like card game
- Sears discontinued theirs in 1993
- Series of short sharp sounds
- Shaggy; unkempt; motley
- Site of a notorious prison riot
- Small breath mint
- Tennis racquet string material

Now take the letters from the bold boxes and mix them with terrestrial bases, to spell something else that can detect alien bases:

                               

\* Equalized Intergalactic Oxyribose Filter. "Equinox" is a registered logoglyph of ASTRL BioInc.