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By Jon Van

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Test time: It's not exactly a better mousetrap, but a Chicago-based company, Independent Forensics, hopes it has built a better kit to quickly and accurately identify semen.

Such kits are already available to fill two roles, said Karl Reich, the firm's chief scientific officer. Sophisticated kits help law officers investigate rape cases, and commercially available kits are intended to help determine sexual infidelity.

The new test from Independent Forensics is designed to be specific for human semenogelin antigens, said Reich, meaning that it won't misidentify other kinds of body fluid as semen.

"A false positive from one of the many so-called home-administered 'cheater kits' will necessitate a trip to a bona fide forensics lab to confirm preliminary results," Reich said. "Our kit takes the guesswork out of the process."

Misleading results from commercially available home test semen kits has led to bad feelings, mistrust, divorce and lawsuits, he said.