

John McElroy's Automotive Insight
Aired November 15, 2005

ARCHETYPE JOINT MEASURES BOLT STRETCH

"Bolting a car together may be more complicated than you think.

With Automotive Insight, I'm John McElroy.

I always thought it was easy to tighten a bolt. Just get a wrench and crank down on it. If it loosened up, you just needed to crank down harder. But Dave Archer explained to me it's not that simple.

Dave started a new company called Archetype Joint that specializes in fasteners for the auto industry. He says most people believe a bolt is properly tightened if it's cranked down to the proper torque. But if bolts are dirty or rusty, if they are cross-threaded or if they're not properly seated, measuring the torque is inaccurate.

Instead, you have to measure how much a bolt has stretched to see if it's properly clamped. And you measure how far it's stretched with acoustics, which is accurate to within thousandths of an inch. So if you're in the auto industry and have a critical joint, make sure it's properly fastened.

With Automotive Insight, I'm John McElroy, WWJ Newsradio 950."

