

PET PIGS INSPIRE INVENTOR

New device could make charging your phone faster.

We'll soon have a pair of pigs to thank for the next big thing in cell phones. Their owner, an inventor called Gizmo Guy, says they inspired his superfast new phone-charging device. And he promises to give the pigs a share of the profits. "Fred and Ginger will be living high on the hog," he says with a smile.

"I come up with simple, cheap solutions for annoying problems," he says. "Like, for instance, the time it takes to charge a phone. I wanted to find a way to speed up the process. But I was stuck—until Fred and Ginger gave me a great idea."

It was a hot day, and Gizmo Guy was hosing down his pet pigs. After a while, the pigs moved out of range of the hose. To make the water reach them, he covered part of the hose's end with his finger. The smaller opening made the water blast out faster—and go a lot farther.

"It's like when you put a finger over the nozzle of a drinking

fountain and the water shoots out really fast," Gizmo Guy explains.

"As I was blasting water at the pigs, I realized that I could speed up the flow of electricity the same way," he continues.

"After all, electricity is a substance like water. Turning on a lamp is like opening a tap. The stuff pours out of the outlet and fills the wire, flowing all the way to the lamp."

Gizmo Guy figured that if he could speed up the flow of electricity to a charger, it would work faster. So he invented a gadget that would do that. He calls it SpeedE-Charge.

"It's a clamp that fits around an electric cord," he explains. "When you tighten it, it squeezes the cord. That forces the electricity to flow through a narrower space. And just as the water sped up when I made the hose opening smaller, the electricity in the wire now flows faster."

"That means power gets to your charger faster and your phone



Michael

HOG HEAVEN: Fred and Ginger could soon have lots of money in their piggy bank.

will charge in much less time," he says. "It's pretty cool."

Can you get a shock from SpeedE-Charge? "No," says Gizmo Guy. "The clamp grips the outside of the electric cord, which is plastic. That's a really good insulator. Electricity only flows through the copper wire inside. They use copper because it's a great conductor. But the SpeedE-Charge clamp won't touch the wire inside. So there's no danger of shocks."

Many people think charging a phone battery means filling it up with electricity. Not so, says GG. "Batteries don't store electricity. They store chemical energy. That gets converted to the electric energy the phone needs to work. When the battery's chemical energy runs out, you have to restore it. And the electricity from a charger can do that."

For now, SpeedE-Charge only exists on paper. But Gizmo Guy says he'll soon have enough money to build and test the real thing. "Charging a phone takes too long, and my product will change that," he says. "People who invest in it will get rich. And so will my pigs!"

Orangefan



EUREKA! Gizmo Guy was inspired while hosing down his pet pigs.