

# geek counterpoint

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## Jan 2007

[The Geek Counterpoint Blog and Podcast | Dec 2006](#)

### Titan Rocks!

⚡ 06:36 MDT / 23 January, 2007 | [Space](#) | [Permalink](#)

### This week in space

⚡ 21:38 MDT / 13 January, 2007 | [Space](#) | [Permalink](#)

So much interesting space-related news was available this week that I just couldn't stop after the Korolyov podcast episode. So let's talk about three particularly interesting items...



### Black diamonds -- they're not just for skiing anymore...

I hadn't heard of these little buggers before, but apparently black (carbonado) diamonds have baffled geologists for years. First, they're charcoal-colored -- sort of a regular diamond's goth sister.

Second, they're not found in the "normal" places with regular diamonds. Instead, they're primarily found in Brazil and in the Central African Republic.

Regular old (yawn...) diamonds form hundreds of miles below the surface of the Earth, and get brought up by volcanism to where they can be mined. Black diamonds, though, don't have such a pedestrian origin. According to a paper by Jozsef Garai and Stephen Haggerty of Florida International University, and Sandeep Rekhi and Mark Chance of Case Western Reserve University, black diamonds may well have formed in a supernova. They analyzed the hydrogen in black diamond samples using instruments at the Brookhaven National Laboratory and found that trace elements found in black diamonds indicate they formed in interstellar space. Spaceflight Now has a summary [here](#), and their paper is online [here](#) in its full glory.

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