

Spy Tech: Build Your Own Laser Eavesdropper

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Laser microphones have been around since the Cold War. Back in those days, they were a favorite tool of the KGB allowing spies to listen in on what was being said in a room from a safe distance. [This project by \[SomethingAbtScience\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EiVi8AjG4OY) resurrects that concept with a DIY build that any hacker worth their soldering iron can whip up on a modest budget. And let's face it, [few things are cooler](https://hackaday.com/2011/02/22/darpas-hummingbird-spybot/) than turning a distant window into a microphone.

At its core this hack shines a laser on a window, detects the reflected light, and picks up subtle vibrations caused by conversations inside the room. [SomethingAbtScience] uses an ordinary red laser (visible, because YouTube rules) and repurposes an amplifier circuit ripped from an old mic, swapping the capsule for a photodiode. The build is elegant in its simplicity, but what really makes it shine is the attention to detail: adding a polarizing filter to cut ambient noise and 3D printing a stabilized sensor mount. The output is still a bit noisy, but with some fine tuning and perhaps a second sensor for differential analysis there's potential for crystal-clear audio reconstruction. Just don't expect it to pass MI6 quality control.

While you probably won't be spying on diplomats anytime soon, this project is a fascinating glimpse into a bygone era of physical surveillance. It's also a reminder of how much can be accomplished with a laser pointer, some ingenuity, and the curiosity to see how far a signal can travel.

[I Built a CIA Spy Device \(Laser Mic\)](https://hackaday.com/2018/05/18/tiny-transmitter-brings-out-the-spy-inside-you/)

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/EiVi8AjG4OY?feature=oembed>

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