



# The Ultimate DIY Tech Upgrades Guide: Build Your Own Laser + 74 Other Way-Cool Gadget Hacks

*Popular Science*

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*Tech Upgrades* is for anyone who's ever wished they could build their own touchscreen, brew up and use conductive ink, rig a mouse that you can operate with your feet, or make a rad engraved computer tower that glows in the dark—essentially, it's for fun-loving nerds everywhere.

Used to be, whenever you had a computer problem or techie glitch, you went and found the nearest geek to help fix it. But now, there's a new movement afoot—a band of inventive and self-reliant geeks who hack computer and software to solve problems (and, in some cases, just to have fun). From building your own computer out of a cereal box to modifying safety goggles to see infrared rays, from skinning your laptop with steampunk trimmings to divising a foxhole radio, and from setting up a projector for your iPhone to working out with a dumbbell of old CDs, this book makes being a nerd, well. Cool.

Activities include:

- Rig a DIY Polygraph
- Listen in on a Foxhole Radio
- Tack Up a Dipole Antenna
- Craft a Cell-phone Cantenna
- Hang HDTV-Antenna Art
- Mod an Xbox Controller into an iPhone Case
- Make Your Smartphone "Bounceable"
- Set Up an Electric Home Secretary
- Rig a Smartphone Projector
- Charge a Phone with Solar Rays
- Make a Tennis Ball Smartphone Tripod
- Turn Your Old Netbook into a Touchscreen Tablet
- Fashion a DIY Stylus for Your Touchscreen Device
- Protect Your Touchscreen with Thin Vinyl
- Stash a Flash Drive in a Cassette
- Make a Pink-Eraser Flash Driver
- Fake It with a Sawed-Off Flash Drive
- House a Flash Drive in a LEGO
- Hack a Foot-Operated Mouse
- Trick Out Your Computer Tower with Engraving
- Turn Your Laptop into a White Board
- Dye Your Laptop
- Make a Steampunk-Inspired Laptop Case
- Turn on Your Computer with a Magnet
- Shield Your Screen from Prying Eyes
- Print in Invisible Ink
- Keep Your Laptop Cool with Copper Coils
- Connect a Junked Out Typewriter to Your Computer
- Make Keyboard Thumbtacks

Rig a Superportable Keyboard  
Create a Glowing Mousepad  
Put an Old Circuit Board to New Use  
Make a Laptop Stand from a Three-Ring Binder  
Build a USB Hub into Your Desk  
Stash Your Printer in a Drawer  
Mount Office Supplies Behind Your Monitor  
Organize Loose Cables  
Make a Floppy-Disk Box  
Get Pumped with a CD Dumbbell  
Assemble a Cereal-Box Spectrometer  
Make an External Hard Drive  
Build a Computer out of a Cereal Box  
Transform an Everyday Lightbulb into a Plasma Globe  
Light Up Sketches with Home-Made Conductive Ink  
Hack Infrared Goggles  
Decimate with a DIY Laser Cutter  
Create Glass Objects out of Sand  
Shine a Mini Flash Light  
Brighten Up a Standard-Issue Flashlight  
Beam a Batman-Inspired Spotlight  
Get Techie with Aluminum Foil  
Improvise a Tripod  
Mount a Camera on Your Bike  
Build a Time-Lapse Camera Stand  
Rig a Plastic-Bottle Diffuser  
Make Your Camera Waterproof  
Create a Peephole Fisheye Lens  
Adapt a Manual Ring to Your DSLR  
Snap a Self-Portrait with a DIY Remote Shutter Release  
Set Up a High-Speed Flash  
Build a Ginormous Camera

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