



Private Eye

Turn your vintage camera into a spying machine.

by Adrian Van Allen | Photo Angie Cao

Home security is a priority we all share. But alarm systems are a pain and dogs need to be walked. Perhaps Martha has the means to pay NASA specialists to create dust clouds around her Wedgwood. For those of us with more modest resources, a wireless security camera is just the thing for deterring meddlers. House it inside a defunct box camera—like the classic Brownie pictured here—and suddenly your prized possession perched on a bookcase becomes a stealthy sleuth. When experiencing a pang of paranoia at work, just log into the home computer and peer into your (hopefully) vacant digs. Who needs the government when you've got Martha to show you how to spy?

RETRO SPY CAM

\$25-\$230

INGREDIENTS:

- Defunct box camera
- Internet-ready wireless security camera
- Computer

TOOLS:

- Hammer
- Screwdriver
- Pencil
- Power drill
- 1/4" drill bit
- Hot glue gun

MAKE IT

1. Using a hammer and screwdriver, rip out the guts of the defunct box camera, including the lens, if there is one.
2. Fit the webcam or security camera inside, and use the pencil to mark where the antenna or cable juts out.
3. Drill a hole where you've marked, and push the antenna or cable through. Secure the apparatus in place with a dab of hot glue, making sure not to melt any important electronics.
4. Place the camera in your surveillance spot of choice (atop your computer monitor, on a shelf, or mounted on an old wood tripod in the corner of your living room).
5. Power up your computer, configure the camera, and enjoy the view.

{ TIP } Here are a few ideas for where to get your gear: *Wireless Internet video camera* (www.broadbandnational.com/store/products-cameras.html); *Wireless spy-cam* (www.123cctv.com/cctv/hidden-wireless-surveillance-cameras.html); *Creative Labs WebCam Instant* (www.amazon.com).



Eyes On The Prize: Trick out your old box camera with a new wireless model.

