

June 25, 2018

To: Dr. Dan Werthimer
Optical SETI project
Berkeley

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Dr. Werthimer — Might you have time to review the attached document? The document describes an engineering approach to broaden the optical SETI efforts that can possibly extend your work to include common people (amateur technologists) to assist you in your work.

Howard

—

Kind regards,
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I'm turning to you as someone much like Tommy (the Information Officer) from THE THIRD ROCK show on TV.

Problem: UFO photos and videos are often low quality, blurred and out of focus.

Need: The world needs better UFO photos and videos.

Goal: Explore the development of a UFO video system that can operate in an automatic fashion. Must be simple, low cost, and a DIY design that can be replicated by sky-watch people anywhere.

Rationale: Customers will pay more than \$100 for a SLR camera; so, some people might invest up to \$100 for a motion-sensor system that will automatically view a portion of the night sky and record things that can be seen moving in the sky.

Action: Establish a design concept using easy-to-obtain components, for low cost, for use in a simple DIY project.

Some questions for you:

- Does this preliminary design concept make sense?
- Can it be lower cost, if other components were selected?
- Is someone else doing similar work?
- Is info available on the WWW?
- Can we learn from others who have “been down this road?”
- How can improvements be envisioned, while keeping the cost low?



Design Concept -- UFO camera



Monocular Telescope 16x52 Dual Focus Monocular Scope with Phone Adapter and Tripod for Bird Watching Fishing Hunting Camping Travelling

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Price



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Mini Spy Hidden Camera, NIYPS 1080P Portable Small HD Nanny Cam with Night Vision and Motion Detective, Perfect Indoor Covert Security Camera for Home and Office

\$36.99

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posted on Dec, 3 2007 @ 10:39 PM

No one seems able to snap even an okay photograph of a UFO. I don't why.

It's like there's this field surrounding the thing that causes people to misfocus, take 1/4 second exposures and hold cameras with arms outstretched.

Taking a good quality picture really depends on what sort of equipment you have and your ability to use it properly. I know nothing about videography, but here is my two cents regarding still photography.

...

You will want to report your sighting as soon as possible. There are a wide range of agencies for this, and Wikipedia lists the majority of them here. Most have online report forms, so just select the one relevant to your country. This ATS thread, [How should I report a UFO sighting?](#), also has a few handy pointers.

And that's it. Have fun making history.



1080P



Magnetic

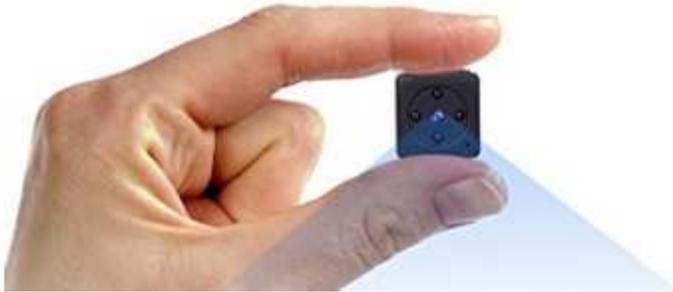


Motion
Detection



Mini DV

From Amazon/com



NIYPS

**Mini Spy Hidden
Camera,NIYPS 1080P
Portable Small HD Nanny
Cam with Night Vision
and Motion
Detective,Perfect Indoor
Covert Security Camera
for Home and Office**

★★★★☆ 245 customer reviews

Price: \$36.99 ✓prime

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Subtotal (2 items): \$46.98

Sold by Xin Tong Direct and Fulfilled by Amazon. Gift-wrap available.

SUPER MINI BODY CAMERA: The hidden video recorder (0.87in, 0.7oz cube) is the world's smallest portable pocket body camera. which makes it perfect as a home security camera or a house-keeper/nanny cam for recording both snapshot picture and videos without attracting any attention

FULL HD VIDEOS AND PHOTOS: NIYPS mini spy cam records video in exceptional 1920X1080P HD at 30 frames per second. Enhanced night vision with 4pcs IR led lights for a clear display in low light conditions(led light not light up in use)

SUPERIOR MOTION DETECTION: Supports up to 32GB memory card and built-in 240mah battery, fully charged, can work about 50 minutes, plus it only records video when detecting movement. Which makes NIYPS mini covert cam easier to save storage space and USE LONGER TIME than other MINI CAMERA

LOOP RECORDING BODY CAM: Body cam supports T-Flash card up to MIN 4GB and MAX 32GB capacity (T-Flash card not included) for loop recording video. Automatically overwrites oldest video files if the TF card is full. Your hidden cam also supports recording video and charging at the same time, so you never worry about running out of batteries

EASY TO USE: Just slot in a T-Flash card and start recording. You can put the body camera in the corner of home, office, warehouse, store, backyard, garden, even in your pocket or on your collar with the clip included .In addition , it can also be used as a car camcorder or an aerial action camera

From Martin -- Reviews and comments regarding the original design concept

Well I had a good read.

As it happens Carol has started to get into night sky photography so I'd already done some research.

High resolution is critical and so film gives the best "blow-up" capability as it does not pixelate.

However, lost shots become expensive and that is where digital rules... take as many as you want, never run out of film during setting up... although I also agree with you concerning the claims of "fake" and "photoshop". I can edit the metadata of a digital image to say it was produced anywhere, any time and with any digital camera... it is a lot harder to do this with a traditional film camera.

One thing you have missed off is the idea of scoping....

Will you be taking a wide angle picture to guarantee that the object is captured or will you be concerned with object tracking and zooming in?

A difficult one to crack...

A decent wide-angle lens can set you back anything from \$200 (used) to \$3000 or more (even used). However match that against an auto tracking and focus system and you are probably talking a couple of thousand dollars just to get started and technically very difficult.

Personally I'd consider a decent wide-angled lens to capture a large portion of the sky and some image movement software to detect changes in the night scene.... or day scene of course. Much easier than servo driven computer aided tracking and focus systems. Focus your wide angle lens at a sector of the sky and prime the kit for image movement detection.

There is probably some kit out there somewhere already.

=====
Howard,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8P_5KFCGcTg

I found this last night and wondered if something similar could be used as a "sky watcher" to detect movement and follow the object while taking pictures.

There are many other systems and some of them are of course very expensive.

From Gabe -- Reviews and comments regarding the original design concept

Howard,

I read your document and you clearly know your stuff. I used to take commercial photography classes years ago and did some professional photography work at one point. I actually have one of the best 35mm film cameras ever built called a Nikon F4s. Now to the UFO stuff. I think there is a solution to most of the focus issues and the Photoshop argument that would allow for lots of information gathering that would be almost impossible to fake digitally. I think what needs to be built is an array of "inexpensive" light field cameras. Light field cameras grab lots of data and allow you to focus later across the entire depth of field. They have additional advantages. For example light field cameras allow for active parallax shift. Meaning you can literally change the view relative to the width of the lens. The wider the lens the more the angle you can view from. This would allow for some 3D ish characteristics of the images and make them hard to fake. Because they are digital they should be easily tripped using motion sensors. Here is a company that makes some relatively cheap light field cameras.

<https://support.lytro.com/hc/en-us>

Also here is a company that does some more industrial light field cameras. <https://raytrix.de/>

Here is a video explaining how they work.

Light-field Camera - Computerphile



Just my two cents!

Gabe

Here is another video about the more industrial version of light field cameras watch this video after you watch the one below. Industrial Light-field Magic - Computerphile



Review also requested from Dr. Dan Werthimer on June 25, 2018

[Dan Werthimer Chief Scientist, SETI - UC Berkeley Astronomy ...](#)

astro.berkeley.edu/researcher-profile/2631939-dan-werthimer ▾

Chief Scientist, SETI Dan Werthimer at Department of Astronomy

[Dan Werthimer - Wikipedia](#)

en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dan_Werthimer ▾

Dan Werthimer is co-founder and chief scientist of the SETI@home project and directs other UC Berkeley SETI searches at radio, ...

[Dan Werthimer News - UC Berkeley Department of Astronomy](#)

astro.berkeley.edu/news/by-tag/170456-dan-werthimer ▾

View News tagged Dan Werthimer. Investor Yuri Milner joins with Berkeley in \$100 million search for extraterrestrial intelligence

US MAIL:

SETI@home
Space Sciences Laboratory
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Berkeley, CA 94720-7450

Optical SETI info:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fkd3BVM7b94&feature=youtu.be&t=16m>