

Modulated Laser

2007

Materials

- Most of the materials listed on the snack sheet are out of date. However, you can still buy separate parts and make what is necessary. Ex: we bought alligator clips and used some magnetic wire to create our own clips for the solar cell.
- The Solar Cell is hard to find. Radio Shack has one, but is extremely small and not recommend. Check with your teacher about science supply books, we found a great solar cell in there.
- If using a Radio Shack solar cell take extreme care when handling it. It will break quite easily if you apply too much force on it.
- You can use computer speakers; however, you need to turn the volume all the way up. We recommend not using them because the quality and loudness is not great.
- You can use an iPod, CD player or anything else in place of the tape deck.

Building

- Take your time! Build slowly to ensure that everything is done correctly!
- When using magnetic wire, make sure that the ends are sanded well to ensure good electrical contact.
- When stripping wire, take care not to pull the wires out of their respective places.
- Try to give yourself some room to work with when cutting wires. The more room you have, the easier to attach and connect necessary components.
- If you use a solar cell without leads, we recommend that you solder the connecting wires on. On that note, we also recommend that you enlist the aid of someone who is adept at soldering, as it will save you needless frustration and supplies.
- After completing project, check the solar cell with a voltmeter to ensure that it works.

Presentation

- On the day of ExploratoRio, bring extra batteries for the flashlight.
- Bring a variety of music to play, to keep things new and fresh.
- Water! Bring some because you will be talking a lot!
- Try to set up on the outer part of the room, as to keep the noise away from your project.
- Be enthusiastic! Kids and parents are attracted to exhibits that are exciting and pumped up.
- Make sure you have your speech down. It's awkward to explain your project if you don't really understand it yourself.
- Making a clear, organized poster helps to publicize your exhibit, as well as giving a clear explanation of what your project does.

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