

Your "gadget" could gain you an extra \$500 from Design News magazine if we use it in print or online at www.designnews.com. Typical Gadget Freak projects incorporate electric, electronic, or electromechanical components. (NOTE: Please do not submit a Gadget Freak design to highlight or "feature" your company's products.)

Your information should let someone familiar with electronics understand your project and how it operates, and it should include enough details so someone could construct and use your circuit or adapt it to their own design.

Before you submit a Gadget Freak entry, review other Gadget Freak projects on the Design News Web site at http://www.designnews.com/hottopic/Gadget_Freak/index.php. Download files and documents for these Gadget Freak projects to better understand how to create useful and complete information.

To be considered for publication, your Gadget Freak submission must include:

- A clear description of your project to help the reader understand how your project works, how to operate it, and what specific components and modules do and how they work. If your project requires special materials, gears, assembly instructions, etc., please include the necessary information.
- Color photos to show off your project so people understand how it goes together and how it works. Please send a maximum of 12 high-resolution (300 dpi) images in either a .jpg or .tif/.eps format.
- A short video of your project in either FLV, AVI, or MOV format, with a maximum run time of about four (4) minutes. (Most phone cameras do not produce acceptable videos.)
- A complete schematic diagram and, if needed to follow your project, mechanical drawings. Typical problems with schematic submissions include unconnected signals, unlabeled components, incorrect pin or contact numbers, inconsistent connector and component labels, and incomplete circuit information. Supply drawings in a high-resolution format that can be opened as a JPG image or PDF file. Please don't send CAD-output files. (NOTE: ExpressPCB, for example, offers a free schematic-capture program with many electronic symbols).
- A complete parts list. Your parts list, or bill of materials (BOM) should include columns labeled Amount, Description, and Allied Part #. A description MUST include a part's electrical units, such as 10 k Ω Resistor, 10 pF Capacitor, SPST Relay, etc. For a bill-of-materials template with examples, go to: www.gfreak.com/Allied-BOM.xls. You need not include common parts such as nuts, bolts, and screws.

Allied Electronics sponsors the Design News Gadget Freak section, so check your BOM against parts in the Allied catalog or Web site (<http://www.alliedelec.com>) and include Allied part numbers for as many components as possible. Please double check part numbers before submitting.

If you list non-Allied parts, note their source. List a company name, Web URL, and part number so readers can find the part you used. Follow the BOM template noted above.

DO NOT include non-standard parts described as "from old laptop" or "salvaged from old equipment" unless the part is common enough to be readily available elsewhere or unless the builder can easily adapt another component or part to the project.

- Programs and code if you use a programmable device such as a microcontroller. Provide the C/C++, BASIC, Java, etc., program listings. If possible, include a binary file builders can directly load into the same device type you used.
- If you use separate hardware and software to program a device, tell your audience what you used, for example, a Microchip PICkit 3 programmer and the MPLAB tools. We strongly encourage well-commented code.
- Your name, mailing address, physical address, phone number, and email address. The Gadget Freak editor might need to contact you quickly for more information or details.
- Label your files in a form similar to: Jones Framostan Radio BOM, Jones Framostan Radio Schematic, Jones Framostan Photo 1, and so on. Compress them all into a ZIP file and send the ZIP file to:

Rob Spiegel, Gadget Freak Editor
robspiegel@comcast.net

Note: If your ZIP file exceeds 8 Mbytes, contact Rob by email for FTP-upload information.