

Bumps in the Night!!!!

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Tools of the Trade

Parabolic Microphone

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You don't always need to spend a lot of money to have a great tool for your paranormal toolbox. One such tool is a portable Parabolic Microphone, aka Parabolic Mic. We made one for ourselves and it cost less than \$10 to make. In this article we'll discuss what a parabolic mic is, why it is a great tool, and how to make one.

So what is a Parabolic Mic? Per Wikipedia, a parabolic microphone is a microphone that uses a parabolic reflector to collect and focus sound waves onto a receiver. To learn more go to: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parabolic_microphone. In our case the reflector was a simple hat umbrella and the receiver was a lapel microphone connected to a digital recorder.

Why is a Parabolic Mic a great tool? With the use of a Parabolic Mic you can turn a normal digital recorder into a highly sensitive digital recorder. The use of the mic will allow the digital recorder to pick up sounds or voices coming from farther away and/or sounds that are very faint. Until you hear the audio from the use of one you won't be able to appreciate how much better the microphone will pick up sound.

To make your own parabolic mic all you need is a hat umbrella, a paint roller, some duct tape, a lapel microphone, and a digital recorder to hook it too once your done. The hardest part to find, believe it or not, was the hat umbrella. You take the hat umbrella and remove the hat band portion. Then put some duct tape in a triangle shape in one of the umbrella panes. Then cut a slit into it (the mic goes through the slit). Then either remove the umbrella tip or drill a hole in it so that you have a cylinder through the umbrella to slide the paint roller into. Take the paint roller and remove the extra pieces until you only have the handle and main rod left. Slip that through the top of the umbrella. Then connect the microphone about 3 inches from the end of the paint roller rod. Connect to a digital recorder. Wah lah! A cheap and easy Parabolic Microphone. To learn more how to make an economical parabolic mic view the following YouTube video:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvP00lfXaSU>

Another item that can be used as a Parabolic Mic is a bay window for a location. Try placing a digital recorder on the ledge in the center of the bay window. The bay window will act as the Parabolic portion to amplify the sound in the room. Try it on your next investigation.

Additional information can be found at:

http://www.ehow.com/way_5569096_doityourself-parabolic-microphone.html

<http://www.answers.com/topic/parabolic-microphone>

