

## Bumps in the Night!!!!

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### Tools of the Trade

#### Other useful tools

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We all have and use tools and gadgets as part of an investigation, even if they are as simple as a \$1 flashlight and a digital camera. There are many other common tools and items that can be used as part of the scientific validation process or just to make things easier, safer, and/or safer. As always, if you are going to use a tool, make sure you know how to use it correctly and how to properly interpret the results. If you're not sure about the tools below (or any other investigation tool), drop us a line at: <http://www.tntparanormal.com/apps/forums/show/2556696-general-paranormal>

**Compass** – You may have one somewhere lying around gathering dust in the garage. Toss it in the gadget bag and use it to help identify magnetic anomalies during an investigation. How about using to align the floor plan of the investigated house/building up with magnetic north for future cross reference with Google maps (or similar) to note distant roadways / railways / waterways that may contaminate (or explain) odd noise/light anomalies seen while investigating.

**Multi-meter** – a cheap multi-meter is great to have in the gadget bag to check battery voltages and identify dead/weak ones. If you are comfortable working with electricity (if not, then do NOT) use it to check for live electrical circuits, or even add a current clamp to measure electrical current flow to help identify EMF sources.

**Remote microphones (mic)** – Most digital recorder have a mic input that can be used with a cheap clip on mic to provide hands free recordings during an investigation. Keep in mind that you get what you pay for, and the remote mic may be lower (or higher) quality than the internal mics of the recorder. Putting remote mics on all the investigators is a great way to rule out investigators as the source of EVPs or other audio anomalies.

**Clothing** – Proper clothing can make an investigation more comfortable and professional. In addition to soft sole shoes and 'quiet' clothing (e.g. swishy nylon sweatpants or jackets will frustrate the audio reviewers), a good web belt with pouches or a cheap fishing vest with several large pockets is a great way to organize and store your handheld gear, meters, flashlights, and notepad and prevent fumbling and item drops in the dark.

**Level** – A quick a cheap tool (\$2) used to debunk moving doors. Check if the door jambs are plumb (vertical) in both the parallel and perpendicular axis. You can also check if a floor or stairs are level (horizontal) which can explain the uneasy or off-balance feeling when walking on an uneven surface.

"Men have become the **tools** of their **tools**.." — Henry David Thoreau

To find out more, use the following links:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b8EpazlwFys> (What is that strange graphic)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNpJ5XWmEak> (Using a level)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lavalier\\_microphone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lavalier_microphone) (Remote mics)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBbqiBU96mM> (Using multimeter)

