

Bumps in the Night!!!!

November 2012 Issue

Tools of the Trade

Laser Pen / Grid

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A couple of tools that many paranormal investigators use are laser pens or laser grids. A laser pen is simply a device that looks like a pen but contains a laser light, push button, and usually runs on a couple AA batteries. When turned on, the pen emits a single beam of light that looks like a laser. A laser grid is similar to a laser pen but when the button is depressed the laser grid emits a large number of laser lights almost looking like a matrix. Laser pens have been around for years while laser grids are a more recent gadget. The theory is that entities may sometimes take the form of a solid mass. If the mass moves across the path of the laser, it breaks the beam of light and the entity can be seen more easily. This is especially helpful because I think you would all agree that it's sometimes difficult to see a black mass move across the room when most likely you are investigating in the dark.



I have used laser pens and laser grids on investigations and have a couple observations and tips:

- First and foremost, never look directly at a laser as it might damage your eyes. If you are walking towards a laser, keep your gaze towards the floor so you don't look directly into the light. To be entirely safe, use protective eyewear if possible.
- Laser pens and laser grids do not have on/off buttons. Rather, they have push buttons where the laser stays on only if the button is continually depressed. If you want the laser to stay on continuously, you can wrap tape around the pen so the button remains depressed or you can put a clamp on the button. However, be sure to not over tighten the clamp or you may damage the button.
- The battery life of laser grids are usually short and the batteries will drain after about an hour of continued use. In addition, the laser grid can get hot if your keep in on too long. Laser pens on the other hand can stay on for hours at a time, the batteries don't drain as quickly, and don't overheat.
- Both devices can be used in one of two ways. You can use them as hand held devices or fasten them to the tripod of your IR camera (facing it the same direction the IR camera is facing).
- I recommend using the laser grid as a hand held device. In my experience it is easier to see the full spectrum of a laser grid with the naked eye and have found it difficult to see the entire laser grid when it is being recorded via an IR camera. For example, during an investigation set the laser grid down on a table or chair, turn it on, and begin investigating by observing silently or conducting an EVP session. Look for any breaks in the light beams of the grid. It could be an entity moving across the room. When moving to another room be sure to turn the laser grid off. This will ensure you don't accidentally shine the laser into a fellow investigator's eyes and will conserve the batteries.

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- I recommend using the laser pen fastened on the tripod of your IR camera for a couple of reasons. First, you can leave the laser pen on for hours at a time (unattended) and won't have to worry about battery drain or overheating. Secondly, since the laser pen is only a single beam of light, it is easier to see on the IR camera. As you review your recorded video later, look for any breaks in the beam of light because it could be an entity moving across the vision of the camera.

