



DIY

comments

related

Want to join? [Log in](#) or [sign up](#) in seconds. | [English](#)

349



Wifi Mailbox sensor (imgur.com)  
submitted 4 months ago by AtxGuitarist  
52 comments share

all 52 comments

sorted by: **new**[-] **David2026** 1 point 4 months ago

Wires going to a mailbox? Better be careful. The way things are now days someone will call the bomb squad. They blow up your mailbox to make it "safe". Then put you in jail.

[permalink](#)[-] **Zombiesai** 2 points 4 months ago

"Dust off my CNC machine" that's hilarious.

[permalink](#)[-] **MrBouRiddly** 1 point 4 months ago

Noticed the Putty Term and nano. Shout out from a fellow Linux user! Pretty cool idea man.

[permalink](#)[-] **dlevasseur** 3 points 4 months ago

Pretty geeky.

My mailbox has a yellow flag on the back that pops up when the door is open. I just have to look out my window.

[permalink](#)[-] **sternail** 9 points 4 months ago

Picture No. 5 Is it just me or does anybody else see a leg and a hint of a dick?

[permalink](#)[-] **swotchy** 1 point 3 months ago

[That's a penis!](#)

[permalink](#) parent[-] **AtxGuitarist** [S] 2 points 4 months ago

haha, very observant. Sorry to disappoint you, but that is the foot of my rolling chair. It would not be wise to solder naked.

Edit: But yes that is indeed my leg.

[permalink](#) parent[-] **phearlez** 2 points 4 months ago

search

this post was submitted on 16 Oct 2015

**349 points** (90% upvoted)shortlink: <https://redd.it/3oxr3i>

jlowens76

••••••••



remember me

[reset password](#)[login](#)[Submit a Completed Project](#)[Submit a Help Request](#)

DIY

[unsubscribe](#)

5,563,531 readers

249 users here now

**Read these guidelines before submitting:**

[/r/DIY Guidelines](#)New to reddit? [Click here!](#)**Tips:**

- These are not the posting guidelines. Please see above.
- If you're asking for help, please give details. Pictures can help. Please do basic research first and illustrate what research you've done in your post.
- If you're **sharing** your DIY project, please tell us how you did it.
- All posts asking for **help** (specific questions ONLY) *must* go in a self post, or in the stickied thread at the top of [/r/DIY](#).
- All posts linking to images must link to an Imgur album. All non-Imgur links will be considered on a link-by-link basis. Please [message the moderators](#) with a link to your content for approval. \*\*
- While we try to adhere to a "3 strikes" policy before banning, mods reserve the right to ban without warning, particularly in regards to

It would not be wise to solder naked.

offensive comments or content.

And Grodd knows my DIY inclinations have never caused me to behave unwisely...

[permalink](#) parent

[–] **OsirisIsRisen** 1 point 4 months ago

Hahahaha cover up OP!!! Everyone on the front page sees the head of your dick!

[permalink](#) parent

[–] **Seasniffer** 1 point 4 months ago

Jesus. OP put some pants on!

[permalink](#) parent

[–] **TwitchingDed** 6 points 4 months ago

They say you see what you want to see.

[permalink](#) parent

[–] **sternail** 5 points 4 months ago

I don't think that's true. Because I want to see massive dicks, not just the tip of them.

[permalink](#) parent

[–] **yeep9** 2 points 4 months ago

great idea! but i will have a nightmare from the "etched" board.

...the horror ... the horror..

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKcAYMb5uk4>

[permalink](#)

[–] **PandiReddits** 1 point 4 months ago

Nice project. Would consider doing this myself.

[permalink](#)

[–] **paulkon** 5 points 4 months ago

Could you potentially hide the wires inside the mailbox somehow? Maybe drill two holes and seal with silicone? Might look less life threatening to an uninformed mailman...

Cool idea otherwise!

[permalink](#)

[–] **aspbergerinparadise** 3 points 4 months ago

how long do those 2 AAA batteries last?

[permalink](#)

[–] **grem75** 1 point 4 months ago

## Note:

If you only post pictures of a finished project with no detail, the submission will be removed. Consider submitting these types of posts to </r/somethingimade> instead. We're trying to keep </r/DIY> about the *process* rather than simply the *result*.

A good rule of thumb is somebody who sees your post should be able to relatively *get close* to being able to replicate the project with the information you've provided

## AMAs

[This Old House cast \(most of them\)](#)

[Jimmy DiResta - DIY Personality](#)

[Leura Fine - Interior Designer](#)

## Other reddit's you may like:

</r/HWStartups>

</r/buildapc>

</r/canning>

</r/crafts>

</r/electronics>

</r/fixit>

</r/gardening>

</r/homebrewing>

</r/homestead>

</r/howto>

</r/metalworking>

</r/somethingimade>

</r/woodworking>

</r/homeimprovement>

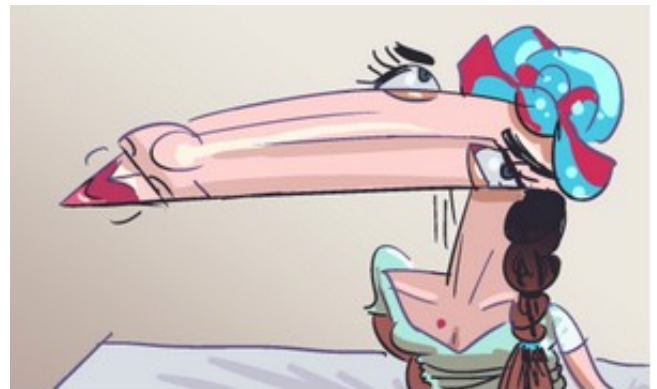
</r/knitting>

</r/DiyGifts>

</r/bathrooms>

</r/loudspeakers>

a community for 8 years



*r/reddit gets drawn Badly*

[discuss this ad on reddit](#)

Those dollar store batteries will probably leak before they drain in this thing.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **quixotic120** 1 point 4 months ago

I bet you could monitor voltage and send a different packet for low battery warning

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **Pesceman3** 2 points 4 months ago

Or just solar power that thing

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **sdphoto35** 62 points 4 months ago

Poor paranoid mail person thinking someone is trying to blow them up.

[permalink](#)

[–] **nikchi** 8 points 4 months ago

definitely, the whole magnetic switch part seems like a trigger

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **Oldschool1964** 2 points 4 months ago

Mount the magnetic switch on the inside of the mailbox. You won't have wires running everywhere and it will look clean from the outside of the box.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **phearlez** 3 points 4 months ago

You'd need to have a mail carrier who didn't go to the JUST SHOVE IT IN THERE IT'LL FIT EVENTUALLY school that mine did for that to survive.

Probably the best way to make this work would be a mercury switch on the door; you could just glue the whole mess to the door. Or better yet, put the electronics under the box to hide it from weather and the switch just barely coming under and up.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **Oldschool1964** 1 point 4 months ago

How about a light sensor in the back of the mailbox? As long as you get your mail delivered during the day, it should work as expected.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **Ristake** 12 points 4 months ago

Well, it is the trigger.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **Rdubya44** 4 points 4 months ago

**TRIGGERED**

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **grimotr** 15 points 4 months ago

MODERATORS

[message the moderators](#)

Thumperings  
sepponearth [lasers](#)  
RugerRedhawk  
GrillBears  
thisismydesktop  
freeseasy  
roastedbagel  
AlphaPigs [Spam JR](#)  
T\_Dumbsford  
DIYgent

...and 9 more »

< > discussions in /r/DIY

X

14 points · 246 comments



[Sandpit with folding lid and seating](#)

so...its a clock?

[permalink](#)

[–] **AwesomeBabyArm** 0 points 4 months ago

I get it.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **gynoplasty** 3 points 4 months ago

No it's a suitcase!

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **das\_ape** 1 point 4 months ago

This is really neat! I'm starting to get into all kind of little home automation projects.

Not really home automation but when we moved into a our new house would go a few days with out mail. Figured it was because we just moved and blah blah blah. After awhile it was really odd that we'd go a week with out hardly any mail. Turns out our house in on a road that is essentially a bum super highway. Ended up buying a locking mail box and BOOM mail galore.

[permalink](#)

[–] **TheWalkingThread** 2 points 4 months ago

Creepy. They were stealing all your mail?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **das\_ape** 1 point 4 months ago

I don't have proof that's what was happening since I hadn't installed my cameras yet. The fact I hardly got any mail when I had a regular mail box and the day I installed a locking mail box I got loads of mail is a bit too coincidental IMHO.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **TheWalkingThread** 1 point 4 months ago

Creepy:(

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **Aspielutely** 1 point 4 months ago

I made something similar as a weekend project, using an arduino connected to a webapp. It then sends me a notification to an app I built for android.

[permalink](#)

[–] **Mnnoonan** 1 point 4 months ago

I wonder if you can do something like this where it activates a lock too.

[permalink](#)

[–] **AtxGuitarist** [\[S\]](#) 2 points 4 months ago

What type of lock?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **Mnnoonan** 2 points 4 months ago

I'm not sure, I was just thinking out loud. I figure it would be handy for people who's mailbox doesn't lock and isn't connected to their home.

Edit: words

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **Ristake** 2 points 4 months ago

I've never heard of a locking mailbox

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] \_\_\_\_\_-\_-\_\_\_\_\_ 1 point 4 months ago

most mailboxes used where i live (denmark) have a key.

and only a 2 cm lid that opens up.

those "american-style" mailboxes are extremely rare here.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **someoneiswrongonline** 1 point 4 months ago

<http://www.mailboxes.com/departments/residential-mailboxes/locking-mailboxes/post-mounted/>

There ya go.

Really if you can play a sound file, you can send any command you like to something like this.

<http://www.amazon.com/PwrUSB-Basic-controlled-Automation-automatically-remotely/dp/B008AZW9P6>

He opens the mailbox, and gets a lightshow for it. Or more realistically, someone opens your house, and the lights all turn on.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **Ristake** 1 point 4 months ago

Weird haha.

The neighbourhood I grew up in Canada used superboxes. The household mailboxes just held junk that no one would really care if they were stolen.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **[deleted]** 3 points 4 months ago

Amazing.

[permalink](#)

[–] **AtxGuitarist** [S] 10 points 4 months ago\*

I built a sensor to notify me when my mailbox is opened via an audio alert on my Raspberry Pi and a notification on my phone. This was my first circuit building project and first time using Python. I had a bit of help from [/r/electronic\\_circuits](/r/electronic_circuits) and </r/learnpython>.

[permalink](#)

[–] **Genesis2001** 1 point 4 months ago

Now, build an elaborate system that sends the mail through a pneumatic tube that ends up in the kitchen only to be ejected into your cereal. ;)

Nice job btw

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] **JohnDoe\_85** 1 point 4 months ago

Is this useless if your mailman just opens the mailbox to check if there is outgoing mail, regardless of the flag?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [M\\_J\\_B](#) -1 points 4 months ago

check if there is outgoing mail

Funny guy... I have not had a mailman in 20 years that picks up my mail when the little flag is raised never mind actually opening the door to check. They don't even attempt to deliver packages. They just have the "sorry we missed you" card already filled out before they even stop at my house.

I have no sympathy for the failing USPS. They have brought this upon themselves.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [jaredpetersen](#) 2 points 4 months ago

I've thought of doing something similar in the past but with a light sensor instead (mainly because I don't own my mailbox). What was the thought process behind choosing to use a magnetic switch instead of some other form of sensor?

Also, how did you manage to get your wifi signal all the way out to your mailbox?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [AtxGuitarist](#) [\[S\]](#) 3 points 4 months ago

I did not think of a light sensor. I chose a magnetic sensor in case the door is not fully shut it still works. It has a range of about 3/4" before it trips.

I have [my WAP](#) mounted in the attic, so it has a really good range.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [kinkykusco](#) 3 points 4 months ago

unifi masterrace.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [AtxGuitarist](#) [\[S\]](#) 2 points 4 months ago

They are great for the price. I have also have 2 Nanobeams set up as a P2P link between my house and another near by. We split the internet bill.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [Laukess](#) 3 points 4 months ago

you could probably also make it a lot cheaper if you only use a esp8266, right?

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[–] [Angus\\_Fraser](#) 2 points 4 months ago

That's actually a really nifty idea.

[permalink](#) [parent](#)

[about](#)

[blog](#)  
[about](#)

[help](#)

[site rules](#)  
[FAQ](#)

[apps & tools](#)

[Alien Blue iOS app](#)  
[mobile beta](#)

[<3](#)

[reddit gold](#)  
[reddit store](#)

<a href="#">values</a> <a href="#">team</a> <a href="#">source code</a> <a href="#">advertise</a> <a href="#">jobs</a>	<a href="#">wiki</a> <a href="#">reddiquette</a> <a href="#">transparency</a> <a href="#">contact us</a>	<a href="#">buttons</a>	<a href="#">redditgifts</a>
--	---	-------------------------	-----------------------------

Use of this site constitutes acceptance of our [User Agreement](#) and [Privacy Policy \(updated\)](#). © 2016 reddit inc. All rights reserved.  
REDDIT and the ALIEN Logo are registered trademarks of reddit inc.

[Advertise - lifestyles](#)