



*The DIY cellphone.*

# DIY Cellphone

An exploration into the possibilities for individual construction and customization of the most ubiquitous of electronic devices, the cellphone. I investigate the implications of digital fabrication and open-source hardware for DIY practice. Research questions include:


- To what extent is it feasible for people to make the technology they use in their daily lives? What obstacles and difficulties will they encounter?
- How are devices (and the process of making them) transformed when they can be produced by the people who will be using them?
- How can we combine the flexibility of quick prototyping processes with the reproducibility and robustness of finished products?
- Who will be interested in making their own devices? Why? How can it relate to their existing skills and interests?



## MAKE THE DIY CELLPHONE

See the [instructions on the DIY Devices website](#).

## PUBLICATION

 David A. Mellis & Leah Buechley. 2014. [Do-It-Yourself Cellphones: An Investigation into the Possibilities and Limits of High-Tech DIY](#). In *Proceedings of the 32nd annual ACM conference on Human factors in computing systems* (CHI '14).

## AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL EXPLORATION

The DIY cellphone has been my primary mobile device for over two years. In the process, I've gone through a number of iterations, refining the design based on my personal experience and requirements.

## WORKSHOPS

I've taught multiple workshops in which participants have made their own versions of the DIY cellphone. They are described in more detail in the [DIY cellphone paper](#).

## ONLINE DISSEMINATION

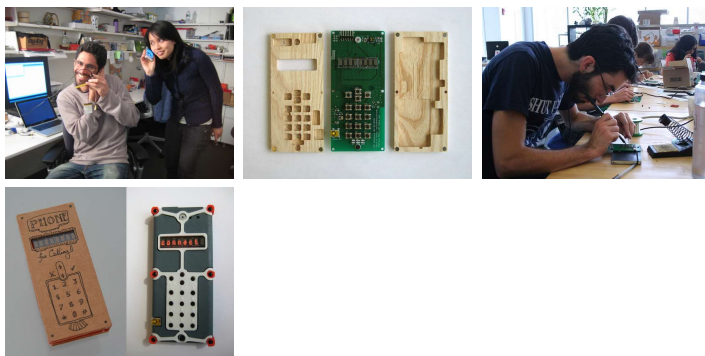
The DIY cellphone is open-source ([software](#), [hardware](#)) and [plans for making it](#) are available online. It has been made and modified by people around the world, including America, Germany, and Shenzhen (China). I've created an [online forum](#) for those building the phone, which has attracted a small international community.

## PRESS

Make Magazine: "Open-Source Cellphone" (Vol. 38, March 2014)

Wired UK: [How to make your own mobile phone](#) by Tom Cheshire (Nov. 12, 2012)

BBC Outriders Podcast: (Dec. 10, 2013). [\[mp3\]](#)



New Scientist: [Making your own phone is easier than you might think](#),  
Lisa Grossman (Mar. 21, 2013)

ABC News: [Make Your Own Cellphone for \\$120 in Parts, Plus SIM Card: It's Not Rocket Science](#), Karin Halperin (Apr. 23, 2013)

Hamburger Abendblatt: [Handys aus Holz, Stoff und Leder selber bauen \(Build cell phones from wood, fabric and leather itself\)](#) (Aug. 14, 2014)