

# Let there be Light 2

## Alan Wilburn

One of our best purchases recently has been a laser lamp or 'LaserPod' powered by a transformer and/or batteries, which consists of a stainless steel cylinder with a faceted reflector surrounding a crystal. Blue and orange lights from LEDs are projected upwards through the moving crystal, giving



reflector and crystal

the ceiling blue and orange waves of light. Laser beams are also projected and directed through the crystal giving moving spots of bright red light. We have ours in the bedroom near a wall so that the lights are projected onto the ceiling and the adjacent wall. The pod is mounted on a wooden bracket projecting from a wardrobe which has a mirror on the front of it. This means that there is a duplication of laser dots.



The LEDs can be switched off leaving the red dots. In a very dark room the dots give a 3D effect because points of reference are lost.



Accessories for the pod include plastic domes and a diffuser that fits on top of the reflector. The dome contains some of the light, creating patterns within it. If it is in battery mode it makes a fascinating table centrepiece without the problem of a trailing wire.



We have found that if you position the pod at about 45° to the wall edge of the mirror and adjust it so that the dots are travelling from left to right above the edge of the mirror, the dot curves downwards in a semicircle making a circle of light with its image in the mirror. It only works on the top edge that is touching the wall; large and small circles can be produced depending on the distance of the dot from the mirror. I can't work out how a circle is produced – it is some reason beyond me, connected with the persistence of vision of the eye, I think.



If you place a crystal hedgehog on top of the pod it looks fantastic with a fiery light in it, and red lights are projected around the ceiling, floor and walls from the spines. You can experiment with different articles; we happen to like the result from crystal.

The diffuser lies across the top of the pod which projects patterns of light made up of straight lines as in 3D curve stitching, which are drawn and redrawn very quickly on the ceiling and wall. In our room the patterns can be 15 feet long on the ceiling. On the mirror you get an ever-changing symmetrical pattern.

Lying in bed watching the light display is very relaxing, and our imagination takes over, the common impression being that the orange and blue ceiling is space around a planet and the red dots travelling up and down the wall are shuttles travelling to and from orbit. The disappearing red lights on the ceiling are ships going translight. But that is just one of our many peculiarities.

If the laserpod is positioned correctly the laser dot moves up some of the rigging lines on our model ship giving fiery lines of light. If the Lounge Light battery units are switched on at the same time there is a very impressive display.

Recently there have been a couple of additions to the range which are cheaper versions and could be of interest; they lack the ability to be switched off, the same with the LEDs. Google will give a fair number of hits on Laserpod but we have found The Glow Company giving us the best prices and delivery. (Must get some shares in The Glow Company!)

Here are a couple of sites to get you started:

<http://www.prezzybox.com>

<http://www.theglowcompany.co.uk/acatalog/LASERPODS.html>

## **Lasers for fun**

If you have a look at [http://www.scitec.uk.com/lasers/lasers\\_ordering\\_laserpointers.php](http://www.scitec.uk.com/lasers/lasers_ordering_laserpointers.php), it will put you onto a page that sells powerful laser pointers if you are interested. Colours come in red and green, with green being the brightest. There are other lasers for industrial/laboratory/hobby use. We find that you can draw shapes on the wall if you move the pointer quickly enough, shine a dot on a house eight gardens away, and get the cat hurtling around the room trying to catch the dot. Shining into crystal objects gives enthralling lighting effects, as does the refracted shapes on nearby walls. Shining onto christmas trees/decorations and holographic paper also gives some very interesting light effects.

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