

PROJECT SNAPSHOT

DIFFICULTY RATING



- ✓ Child's Play
- ✓ Use Both Hands
- ✓ Call for Backup!
- ✓ Obi-Wan Worthy

Estimated Time to Complete:

1 hour

Estimated Cost: \$250

THE PROBLEM

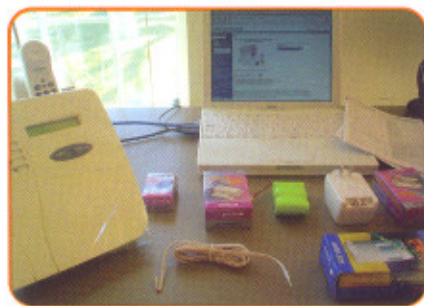
Can you put a price on your security? A lot of other people can. With a wireless system, you can dictate the costs.

PARTS NEEDED

Smarthome SecureLinc II wireless security system, a Phillips-head screwdriver and duct tape.

PROJECT STEPS

- 1 Purchase the product.
- 2 Take inventory.
- 3 Draw up a plan.
- 4 Program the control box.
- 5 Enroll the contacts, the PIR and the keyfob.
- 6 Define the zones.
- 7 Mount the control box.



Smart Security

Install a wireless security system

Something evil waits in the dark. Or maybe it was just a cat. With a security system you can take the guesswork out of your nightly routine and get a good night's sleep.

A few "experts" may tell you that a professionally installed system with a monitoring service watching over you is the only way to dissuade potential intruders. Sure it would be nice to have that kind of peace and money, but do-it-yourself models have come a long way from barring windows and barricading doors. We opted for Smarthome's SecureLinc II system (\$249.99), which should dispel some of the myths about a complex and expensive installation process. With a few short-cuts, we had our system guarding the fort in just under an hour.

STEP 1: GET ORGANIZED

Installing your own alarm system is not rocket science. In fact, it's not even eighth grade science. We'll be the first to admit, though, that there is some consternation involved. Most of us know how to operate a microwave oven and use a TV remote, but an alarm system just seems—well, foreign. There's a reason most of us get panicky about them. Rest easy. While it is quite easy to set off an alarm system by mistake, the world will not end if you do. In fact, it might not be a bad idea to trip the alarm just to hear

what it sounds like—or even just to scare the neighbor's cat.

The SecureLinc II has a lot of parts, but don't be intimidated. You are in control here. And part of the beauty of installing an alarm yourself is that you can decide where it goes, how it works and how you use it, but you don't need to understand all the techie terms. If all you want is a simple front door alarm, that's your call. We officially give you permission to cut corners and make the system work your way.

Take a deep breathe. Unpack all the pieces and lay them on a table in a logical order. For some vaguely masochistic reason, the two manuals seem to duplicate a few instructions. Set them aside for now—please.

STEP 2: TAKE INVENTORY

In the SecureLinc package, you will find two contacts. They are the white plastic pieces that look like doorstops, plus a magnet bracket. These go on doors and/or windows that burglars might consider a point of entry. When the contact moves away from the magnet, the alarm will go off or you will have a set period of time to disarm the system. Install one or, if you're Donald Trump, get 30 for every door and window. How you design the system is entirely up to you.

This system is totally wireless, which means the contacts send an

BONUS INFO

PROPER POSITIONING

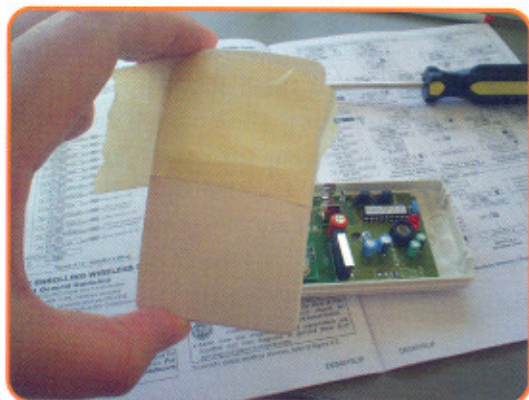
Position the control box in a location that is easy to get to, centrally located, and close to a telephone line.

EASY ACCESS

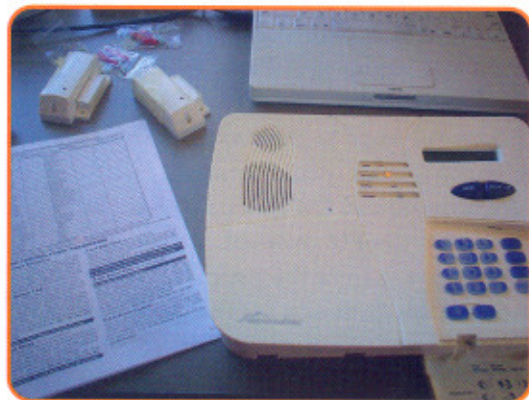
Use an alarm code that you can easily remember but that other people would not be able to guess—don't use birthdays, anniversaries or other well-known numbers.

NEED TO KNOW

Your Guide: John Brandon
City/State: Buffalo, Minn.
Occupation: Freelance Writer
Shocking Revelation: I'm an accomplished acoustic guitar player.



Get the glue gun! Actually, the inside of the box—and the alarm unit—is nothing to be afraid of.



devices. Don't fret too much about hooking up the power cord on the control box; we can do that later. At this point, the contacts will have power. Grab a piece of duct tape and attach the contact firmly next to the magnet bracket. This tells the control box that the contacts are not disengaged from

encrypted signal back to the control box—there's no wiring involved. So even though the SecureLinc looks a bit complicated, what with all kinds of batteries and wires and doohickies, it's really not.

Now it's time to plan your alarm system roadmap. Get a pencil and paper, and draw a rough diagram of your house floor plan. It doesn't need to be anywhere near perfect, just draw boxes for each room on the main floor. Then decide where you want to install the control box, the contacts and the PIR motion detector. Just draw circles to indicate where you will install the devices. Aside from making a plan, it's important to know where you will install these devices when you start programming the system.

STEP 2: PROGRAM THE CONTROL BOX

Install the batteries in each of the

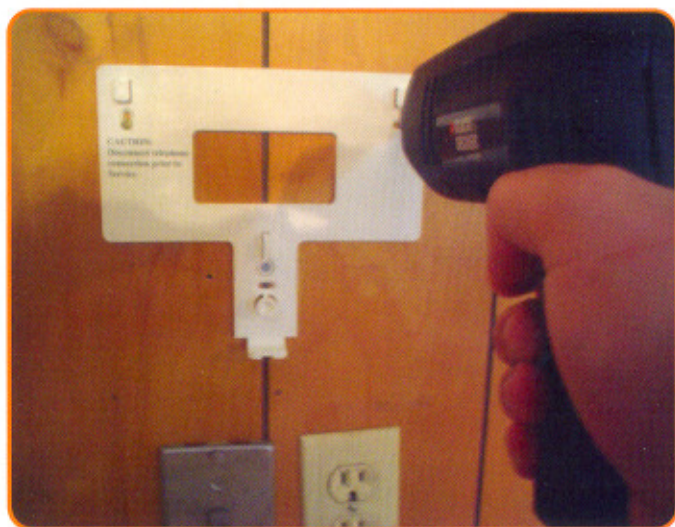
one another. In other words, no one is breaking into your house. Also, put a piece of black or gray tape over the front of PIR motion sensor. Set aside all the other parts for now, because we're going to focus just on the control box.

You may have noticed that when you plugged the battery into the control box and replaced the cover that there was some beeping and a woman's voice saying "System not ready." Well, duh! Here's where it starts to sound a little confusing, but let's preface by saying that if you follow the prompts, you'll get where you want to be.

Start by pressing NEXT three times until you see Installer mode. Then press SHOW/OK. You will need to enter



These contacts can trigger entry through doors and windows.



Attach the mounting bracket to the wall, and installation is literally a "snap."

a new installer code, so type in something obvious like 4444. After you pass that test, press NEXT again to Enrolling. When you "enroll" you are syncing the control box with your contacts so they can communicate. Press NEXT to go to Enroll WL Device and press SHOW/OK. At the Set Sensitivity prompt, press SHOW/OK. Press NEXT to set the contact to a higher range or lower range sensitivity. Use higher, which means you can place the contact farther away from the control box for good reception. Only use lower if you want to limit the range of the alarm system. Press SHOW/OK and you'll see a prompt for Zone No.

Zones are the areas of your home that you want to protect. When you drew the map and

placed the contacts—those are zones. You should have at least three of them: two for the contacts and one for the PIR motion detector. Press NEXT until you see the zone that you want. Page 11 in the Installer Guide has a list of zone numbers and matching names, but you can use any number—it doesn't have to be the ones shown in the manual.

STEP 3: PROGRAM THE EXTRAS

Press SHOW/OK and you'll see a Transmit Now message. Grab the first contact. Press SHOW/OK and separate the bracket, which sends the signal to the control box and enrolls the device. Once enrolled, you can press NEXT to go to the next zone you want to enroll for the second contact.

Next enroll the PIR motion sensor. When you enroll the PIR, instead of moving the contact away from the magnet, just take the tape off the front and wave your hand to activate the sensor. After that, you'll enroll the keyfob, which is the one that looks like a tiny garage door opener. Press HOME to back up one menu—you should see Enroll WL Device—and press NEXT so that Enroll Keyfob appears. Press SHOW/OK, then NEXT to select a number (any number), and press SHOW/OK. Transmit Now will appear. Now just press any key on the keyfob. Congratulations, you have enrolled your contacts, the PIR and the keyfob and set the zones.

STEP 4: DEFINE THE ZONES

Press HOME again and you'll see Enrolling. Press NEXT so you see Define Zones. Press NEXT again until you see the first zone you entered when you enrolled the contacts, and press SHOW/OK. You'll now see a Zone Type prompt. This code determines what will happen when someone actually trips the alarm. For our purposes, let's just use Delay 2 (number 5); press NEXT until 05 appears. Delay 2 is the one you want for most doors and windows because if the alarm is activated, there will be a short delay before the alarm sounds to allow you to disarm the system.

After you select the Zone Type, press SHOW/OK and scroll through the zone names

available by clicking **NEXT** until you find the one you want, then press **SHOW/OK**. You can set a chime here that sounds whenever someone opens a door or window—even if the alarm happens to be off. Press **SHOW/OK** one last time. A black square will appear next to the zone number you picked earlier. Press **NEXT** to define the zones for the second contact and the PIR. When you're done, press **HOME** again to go back to Define Zones. Press **NEXT** so that Define Panel appears.

Is your head spinning yet? The good news is that the programming portion is finished. Consult page 11 of the Installer Guide for more information about defining the panel and customization options that will truly trick out the system you are creating. You can enter telephone numbers for the system to call in an emergency or add external security cameras for viewing your home when away from home. If you just want to be done, press **HOME** a few times until you exit the Installer menu. As long as you enrolled and programmed the contacts, the PIR, and the keyfob correctly, the system should be ready to mount.

STEP 5: MOUNT THE BOX

Before mounting the control box, screw the two AC adapter jacks into the bottom of the unit and attach a telephone line (if you plan to use those features). This might mean locating the device next to a telephone line, although you don't need to use those services for the alarm to function.

Screw the control box mounting bracket into position, then slip the control box onto the bracket. For the contacts, remove the contact faceplate and screw the bracket into position on a door or window, right next to the sill. Then, crew the magnet bracket at least $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch or less away from the contact. You can test whether you have mounted the contact and magnet correctly just by opening and closing the door or window. If you positioned the contact correctly, a red light will flash briefly when you move the contact from the magnet. Consult the manual for diagrams—that can help. Mount the PIR motion detector using the PIR mounting bracket so that the sensor is



located in an area that would detect an intruder, such as the hallway.

Once the contacts, the PIR and the control box are mounted, close all of the doors and windows you plan to protect. Now you can arm the system safely. This just means pressing the **HOME** button if you are in for the night, or the **AWAY** button if you are going out.

That's all of the basics—but there are plenty of ways to make your new security system more unique. Consider one of the many add-on items, which include pet detectors, keypads and sirens. You can make your system rival some of the professional installs. Of course, we flew through the install procedure quickly; read the manuals for more information on how to soup up your security. **TL**

Armed and ready to roll: The system can be easily tucked near any outlet.