Experimental practice does not shy away from the administrative.

**stephen cornford**

How to Blind your Compact Camera

"The industrial modality appears when the source of information and the source of energy separate. The machine has two different entry points, that of energy and that of information"  
Gilbert Simondon

This experiment seeks to reconnect energy and information in the machine-eye by imaging a camera's energy in its most explosive form, short-circuiting the industrialisation of vision.

**WARNING: RISK OF ELECTRIC SHOCK**

You will need:  
1 compact camera  
2 x AA batteries  
rubber gloves  
dremel w/ cut off wheel OR mini blow torch  
soldering iron  
screwdriver set  
side cutters  
tweezers and/or wooden coffee stirrer

Put the batteries in the camera, switch it on, set it to the default flash mode and half depress the shutter button without taking a photo. This should charge the flash capacitor. Switch off and remove batteries.

Remove all visible screws from the casing of the camera. Depending on the model of your camera you may need a set of tamper-proof screwdrivers.

Remove the back cover of the camera. Locate the flash capacitor. This is the largest component in the camera, its connection to the circuit board is often insulated with black tape. Make sure never to touch this area.
Remove the LCD screen. This is usually connected to the circuit board with a ribbon connector.

Put on your rubber gloves. Remove the flash capacitor by cutting its wires or de-soldering it. Be careful not to touch its two wires together. You can use wooden tools (e.g. chopsticks, coffee stirrers) to ensure you don’t short it out. Once removed, put it safely to one side.

Locate the image sensor, usually between the main circuit board and the lens, and remove it. Using a dremel or blow torch cut or shatter the glass cover the centre of the sensor, being careful not to break the fine gold wires at its edges.

If you disconnected the sensor then reconnect it and switch on the camera. Being careful not to touch the wires, pick up the capacitor and push carefully against the sensor so that its wires touch on the exposed surface. This will cause a bright spark and loud bang.

Reconnect the screen to the camera to inspect the damage.