

# PAYPHONES OF ALTON, IL



Here's an exciting pay phone in the shopping center parking lot next to Jack in the Box.



This one is at Hit N Run, next to Dairy Queen. Look how shiny it is! Oh wait, no it's not.



Here's the best one of all! It's a phone-from-car pay phone in the parking lot at Shop N Save.



This one is in front of an SBC central office. Somebody stole the phone from it, though.

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## 2.600 KHz

The Hacker Occasionally



**Special fold-out L0pht  
pics in this issue!**

# RECORDING YOUR TELE- PHONE CALLS



There are a lot of different reasons you might want to record your phone calls. The obvious reason on our [phoneloser.org](http://phoneloser.org) site is comedy - recording funny prank calls so that other people can hear them. But maybe you're forgetful and just want to keep a record of your phone calls for later review. Or maybe you'd like to tap and record someone else's phone line, or even a public phone. This article should hopefully show you everything you want to know about tapping phones and recording phone calls.

**Speakerphone:** If you don't want to spend any money, this is probably the cheapest possible way you can record phone calls. Use a speakerphone and set a tape recorder or your PC's microphone right next to it. It works and you might get some good quality recordings out of it. But as you know, speakerphones are annoying to the people you call and you have to take turns talking, as opposed to being able to talk at the same time with any other method. Instead of using a speakerphone, you should at least spend \$5.49 on a suction cup microphone...

**Induction Coil Mic:** This method of recording is nice because it's portable and can be quickly hooked up to almost any telephone, even a pay phone. You don't have to have access to the wiring of the phone, you just stick the suction cup on the back of your phone's handset and plug the other end into a tape recorder, stereo or your computer. If you have a phone handset that has electronics in the handset (i.e. the dialing keypad is IN the handset) then you might end up with interference in your recording. It's best to use the suction cup on a phone where the handset is separate from the rest of the phone. But if you don't have a choice, try positioning the suction cup in different places, like on the side of the handset or on the top. You can even stick it on the opposite side, where your ear normally goes, as long as you can still hear the conversation okay. If you do this, you'll probably need to wrap some tape around the suction cup and phone to hold it on. You can buy the suction cup phone recorder at Radio Shack for \$5.49. The part number is 44-533.



**In-line Recorders:** This device has always been my favorite method of recording phone calls and has almost always produced the best quality recordings. An in-line recorder plugs into any phone jack in your house and will record phone calls from any phone on that same line. These are great for tapping lines - you could hide one of these in a closet with a tape recorder and nobody would ever know that their phone calls were being recorded. If your tape recorder has a "remote" jack on it, this device will automatically start your tape recorder each

## DRAW A LINE TO MATCH THE SHADOW



# PLA HAPPENINGS

## PLA VOICE BRIDGE

The phone number to the PLA's voice bridge has changed to 413-370-0333. The extension is still #752. Our nightly free conferences start at 8:00pm EST. More information can be found on [www.phonelosers.org/bridge.html](http://www.phonelosers.org/bridge.html)



## PLA Radio

We're now streaming audio 24 hours a day, except for the days when we only stream 10 or so hours. You'll hear phone-related songs, skits and prank phone calls. Sometimes even live! More information on PLA Radio can be found at [www.phonelosers.org/radio.html](http://www.phonelosers.org/radio.html)

time a phone in the house is picked up. Then it will stop recording when the caller hangs up. Radio Shack carries this for \$24.19 and the part number is 43-228.

**In-line Phone Cassette Recorder:** This device works just like a regular in-line recorder but it has the added convenience of having a tape recorder built into it. You can either hook it directly into the phone line so it will record every phone in the house, or you can hook it to your phone's handset so that it only records from your phone. It can be activated by voice or it can just start rolling tape whenever a phone is picked up. I had a problem with the voice activation, though, because the first word would always be half cut off. It wasn't quite sensitive enough. These can also be picked up at Radio Shack for \$79.99. The part number is 43-473.



**Police Scanner & Cordless Phone:** If you happen to own an older cordless phone (900 MHz or 10 channel or 25 channel), you might be able to record phone calls directly from your police scanner. Simply figure out the frequency that your phone is on by scanning the 900 MHz range while you're on a call. You can also get the frequencies for the 10 & 25 channel cordless phones on [phonelose.org](http://phonelose.org). One you've got your conversations playing through your scanner, you can hook the earphone outputs directly to your tape recorder or computer. Or you can just set your scanner next to the tape recorder or the computer's microphone and hope for the best. If you own a 2.4 GHz phone don't even bother trying.

**Modems & Software:** If you have a voice-capable modem in your computer, you might be able to record phone calls directly from the phone line that's hooked to your computer. One program I know of that does this is Call Corder. I've never tried recording phone calls like this so I'm not sure how well it works. There's lots of other software packages for doing this but I'm not going to list them all since I don't know much about any of them.



**Wireless Phone Recording Controller:** Using this device is probably the best way that you can record your cellular phone calls. The only requirement is that you have a 2.5mm jack on the phone and a hands-free headset. This device plugs in between the 2.5mm jack and your handsfree headset. You plug the other end into your tape recorder, stereo or PC. It works great and makes perfect quality recordings. As good as the quality normally is on your cellular phone, anyway. You can buy this at Radio Shack for \$21.99. The part number is 17-855.



## Important Phone Numbers

*To post on your fridge...*

718-238-9901 Verizon DMS-100 read by Elvis  
313-849-9906 Bad weather conditions at Ameritech  
413-370-0333 PLA's Voice Bridge (extension #752)  
570-387-0000 Emergency situations at Bell Atlantic  
618-254-7111 Pay phone by Walgreens entrance

Do you have a phone number that we should include in the next phone list? Email it to [rbcpl@phonelossers.org](mailto:rbcpl@phonelossers.org) and it will be considered. We welcome anything bizzare, useful or interesting.



## OMG Hax Con 2004

If you're going to HOPE this year, plan to stay an extra day and attend OMG HAX! Rob T. Firefly and Murd0c have organized an unofficial PLA gathering for Monday, July 12th, 2004 which is the day after 2600's Hope conference. Activities are rumored to include dumpster diving at McDonalds, scavenger hunts, hacing The Today Show, touring a CO and flash mobbing. For more information and updates on OMG HAX CON, visit:

# WWW.OMGHAX.NET

# DOT.TO.DOT

COMPLETE THIS DOT-TO-DOT  
ACTIVITY TO FIND OUT WHAT  
GEORGE THE BUSINESSMAN IS  
GETTING READY TO PUT INTO  
A PAY PHONE!



ANSWER: A QUARTER!