

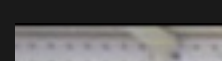


# HACKADAY

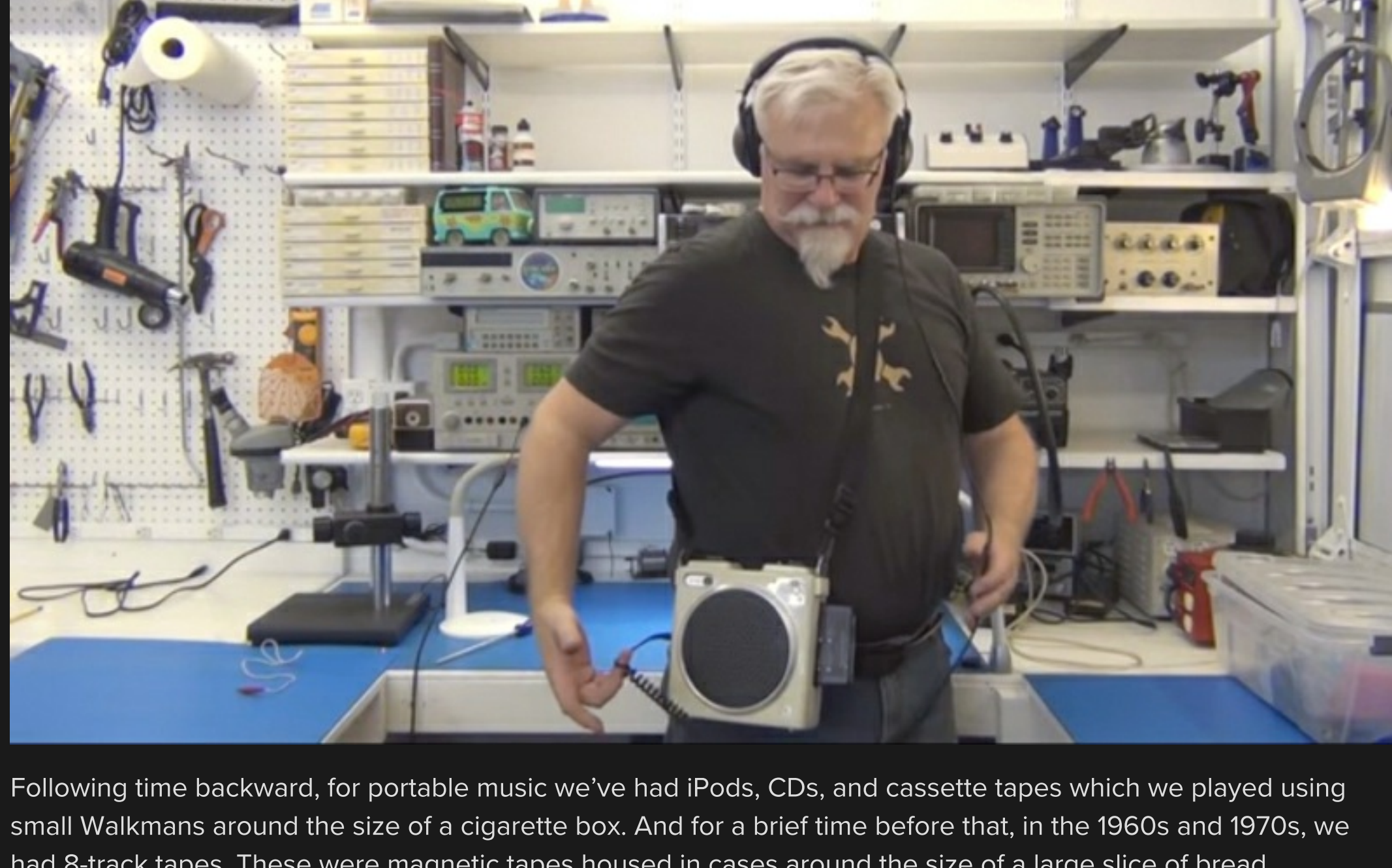
## TURNING 8-TRACK PLAYER INTO A WALKMAN

by: [Steven Dufresne](#)

2 Comments



April 19, 2018

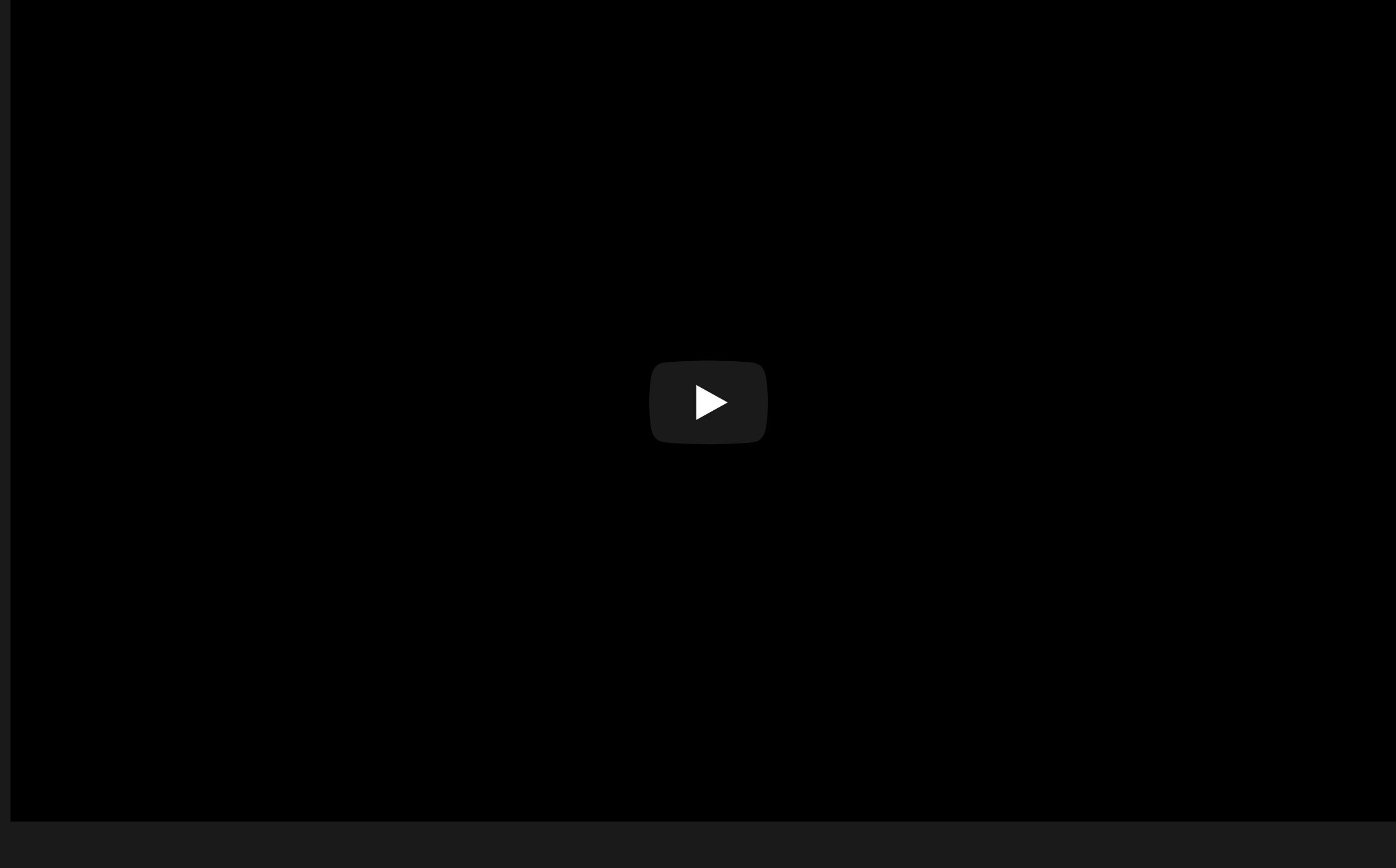
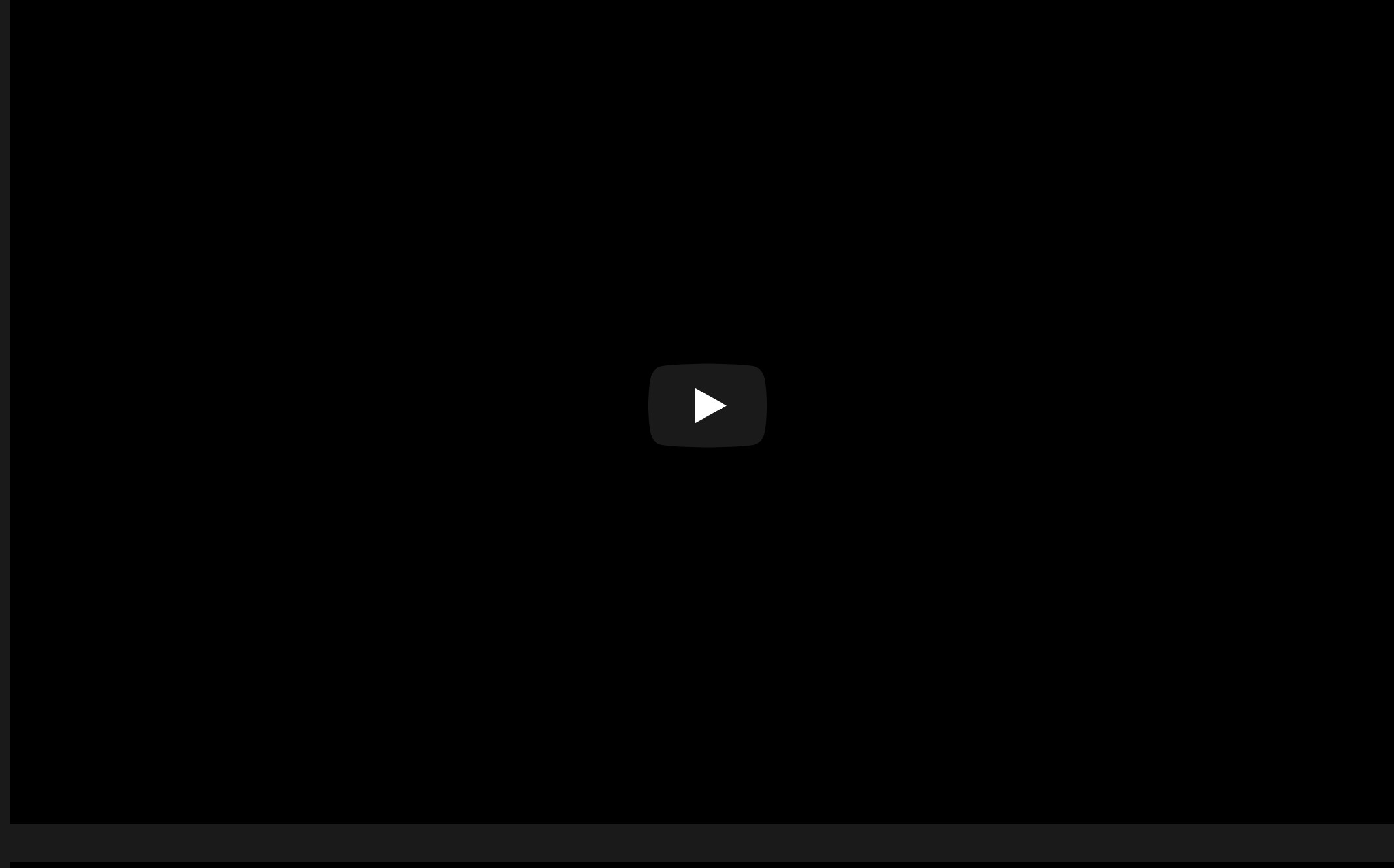


Following time backward, for portable music we've had iPods, CDs, and cassette tapes which we played using small Walkmans around the size of a cigarette box. And for a brief time before that, in the 1960s and 1970s, we had 8-track tapes. These were magnetic tapes housed in cases around the size of a large slice of bread. Car dashboards housed players, and they also came in a carry-around format like the one [Todd Harrison] recently bought at a Hamfest for \$5 and [made more portable by machining clips for a strap and adding a headphone jack](#).

But before hacking it, he wanted to try it out. Luckily his sister had hung onto her old tapes and after plugging it in and sliding in a tape, it worked! Opening it up he found that the contacts for the batteries were rusted but the mechanical components and electronics inside were very clean. Though he did add glue to a crack in the plastic read-head support, cleaned out some grease, did some lubricating, and cleaned the contacts in the volume control's potentiometer. Check out his teardown video below for those details or if you just want to see how it all works.

Then came making it portable so that he could embarrass his kids by carrying it around the mall. The shoulder strap didn't come with it, so he machined some clips out of steel and snapped on a strap. It didn't have a headphone jack and he didn't want to embarrass his kids too much, so he added one. You can see that hack in the second video below, including how his repurposed jack automatically disconnects the speaker when the headphone plug is inserted. Personally, we think he looks pretty spiffy carrying it around wearing his Hackaday T-shirt.

While you're still feeling retro, check out [Jenny List's] [full write-up on 8-track technology and a teardown of a player for a home hi-fi system](#).



Posted in [Portable Audio Hacks](#)  
Tagged [8-track](#), [audio tape](#), [headphone jack](#), [headphones](#)

[← Play Chess Against A Ghost](#)

[Tesla Coil Uses Vacuum Tube →](#)

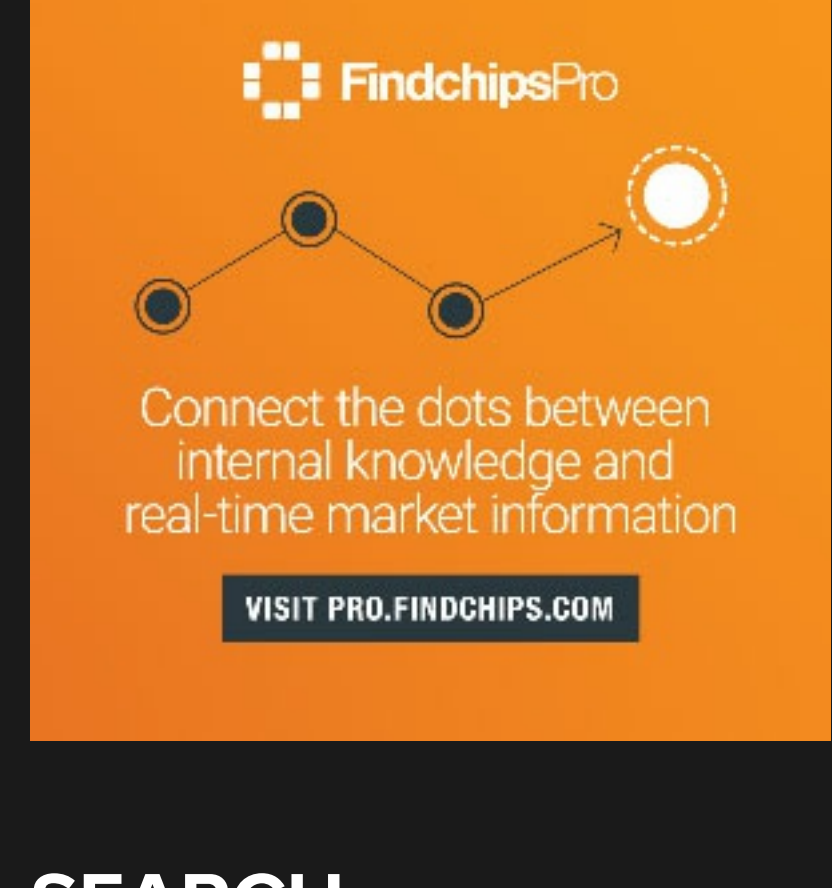


### 2 THOUGHTS ON “TURNING 8-TRACK PLAYER INTO A WALKMAN”

- foxpup** says: April 19, 2018 at 10:06 pm  
You Da Man!!!! (Absolutely Love It)  
[Reply](#) [Report comment](#)
- FastEddy** says: April 19, 2018 at 10:30 pm  
There's some sweet equipment on those racks. Great project, too!  
The young-uns in the Mall will be flabbergasted.  
[Reply](#) [Report comment](#)

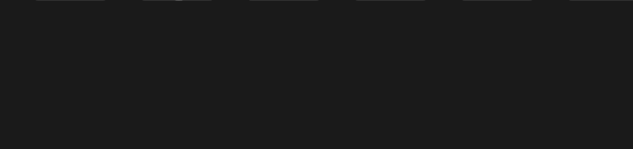
#### Leave a Reply

Enter your comment here...



SEARCH  [SEARCH](#)

### NEVER MISS A HACK



SUBSCRIBE  [SUBSCRIBE](#)

### IF YOU MISSED IT

- [WHEN 4 + 1 EQUALS 8: AN ADVANCED TAKE ON POINTERS IN C](#)  
67 Comments
- [FIX YOUR INSECURE AMAZON FIRE TV STICK](#)  
38 Comments
- [BEATRICE TINSLEY AND THE EVOLUTION OF GALAXIES](#)  
10 Comments
- [BEEPING THE ENEMY INTO SUBMISSION](#)  
44 Comments
- [TWO-CENT TEMPERATURE SENSORS](#)  
76 Comments

[More from this category](#)

### CATEGORIES

Select Category

### OUR COLUMNS

- [MECHANISMS: VELCRO](#)  
21 Comments
- [WHEN HACKERSPACE DIRECTORS BURN OUT](#)  
66 Comments
- [FRIDAY HACK CHAT: CIRCUIT BOARD ART](#)  
12 Comments
- [FAIL OF THE WEEK: AN ELECTRIC BICYCLE, POWERED BY AA BATTERIES](#)  
45 Comments
- [TENSORFLOW IN YOUR BROWSER](#)  
22 Comments

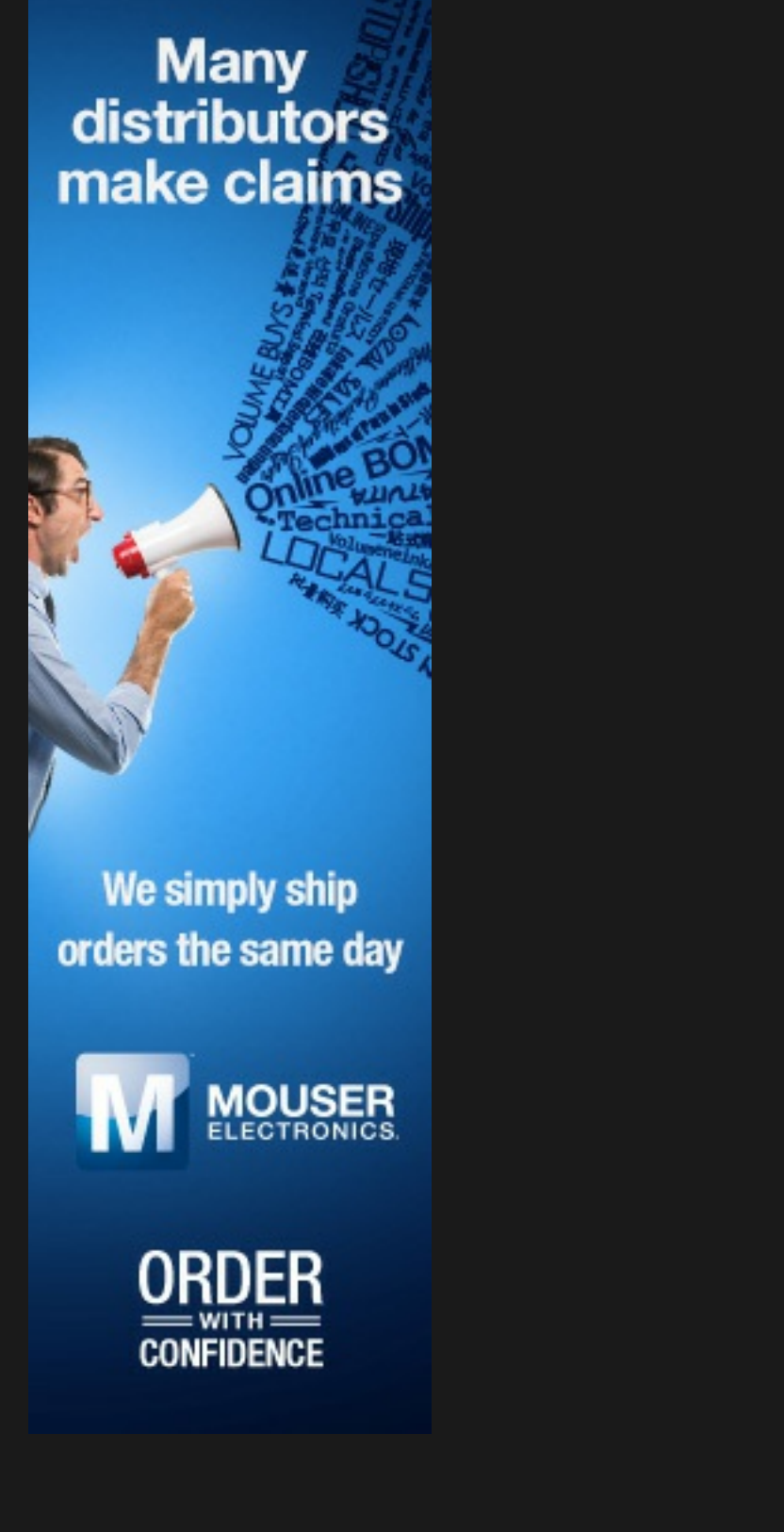
[More from this category](#)

### RECENT COMMENTS

- [punkdigerati on Unlock & Talk: Open Source Bootloader & Modem](#)
- [nicOmac on Arduino Revives Junkyard Laser Cutter](#)
- [Michael on Arduino Revives Junkyard Laser Cutter](#)
- [nixieguy on We're Making it Rain Achievements This Year](#)
- [BrightBlueJim on Marquee Display Uses Six Dozen Surplus VFD Tubes to Great Effect](#)
- [BrightBlueJim on Marquee Display Uses Six Dozen Surplus VFD Tubes to Great Effect](#)
- [Alphatek on When 4 + 1 Equals 8: An Advanced Take On Pointers In C](#)
- [BrightBlueJim on Marquee Display Uses Six Dozen Surplus VFD Tubes to Great Effect](#)
- [Alphatek on When 4 + 1 Equals 8: An Advanced Take On Pointers In C](#)
- [jal on When 4 + 1 Equals 8: An Advanced Take On Pointers In C](#)

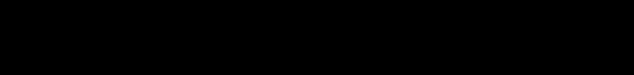
### NOW ON HACKADAY.IO

- [Nixie liked Interdimensional Portal Gun.](#)
- [Nixie has followed a list.](#)
- [Morning.Star has added details to Pandelphi.](#)
- [davedarko liked Cool replacement for nixie tubes.](#)
- [lee has added a new project titled ㄹ제주도골든출장샵 상담특: DG79C 홈페이지 \(주\) GOLDEN79.COM 출장업소/출장안마/.](#)
- [Squonk42 has updated components for the project titled Funkey Zero.](#)
- [Eric Heikkila has updated the project titled Confabulator.](#)
- [lee has added a new project titled ㄹ제주도골든출장샵 상담특: DG79C 홈페이지 \(주\) GOLDEN79.COM 출장업소/출장안마/출.](#)
- [Nima Mehr has updated the hackerspace titled Planet Z.](#)
- [davedarko wrote a reply on Funkey Zero.](#)



- HOME
- BLOG
- HACKADAY.IO
- STORE
- HACKADAY PRIZE
- VIDEO
- SUBMIT A TIP
- ABOUT
- CONTACT US

#### NEVER MISS A HACK



#### SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER

Enter Email Address [SUBSCRIBE](#)