

# How To Start Your Own Graffiti Research Lab

by [fi5e](#) on December 5, 2007

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## intro: How To Start Your Own Graffiti Research Lab

Starting your own **fake laboratory** is easy, but we'll try to make it seem hard in these six pompous steps.

# HOW TO START YOUR OWN GRAFFITI RESEARCH LAB

# HOW TO START YOUR OWN GRAFFITI RESEARCH LAB

STARTING YOUR OWN FAKE LABORATORY  
IS EASY, BUT WE'LL TRY TO MAKE IT SEEM  
HARD IN THESE SIX POMPUS STEPS.

★



### step 1: Hackers + Graffiti Writers

Hackers and graffiti writers unite! The street and the Net are both filled with opportunities for small people to alter the course of large systems. Hackers pieced up the Internet by sharing ideas, and writers hacked a billion-dollar transportation system to move their art around town for free.



## STEP Ø:

HACKERS AND GRAFFITI WRITERS UNITE! THE STREET AND THE NET ARE BOTH FILLED WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL PEOPLE TO ALTER THE COURSE OF LARGE SYSTEMS. HACKERS PIECED UP THE INTERNET BY SHARING IDEAS, AND WRITERS HACKED A BILLION-DOLLAR TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM TO MOVE THEIR ART AROUND TOWN FOR FREE.

## step 2: Stop Asking Permission

Stop asking permission from law-enforcement offices, city officials, arts organizations, and copyright owners (but feel free to take their \$\$\$\$). Causing mayhem in public space is like downloading music on the internet: if enough of us rush the guards, they won't be able to take us all out.



**STEP 1:**  
STOP ASKING PERMISSION FROM  
LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, CITY OFFICIALS,  
ARTS ORGANIZATIONS, AND COPYRIGHT OWNERS  
(BUT FEEL FREE TO TAKE THEIR \$\$\$\$). CAUSING  
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IF ENOUGH OF US RUSH  
THE GUARDS, THEY  
WON'T BE ABLE  
TO TAKE US  
ALL OUT.

## step 3: Public Space & Public Domain

Work in public spaces and the public domain. You should be open with your process to the point of being skeezy. Hit walls and networks and minds for free. Your only reward will be a purpose and an army of collaborators who are legion and loyal. No patents, no copyright, no property... just fame.



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AND LOYAL. NO PATENTS, NO COPYRIGHT, NO PROPERTY... JUST  
FAME.

## step 4: Train To Be a Deviant

Train to be a deviant: Tear down ads, lick expensive paintings, sniff packets, steal paint, curse in the source code, trespass, torrent, install Linux, make drippy markers, buy a laser, don construction gear and go around the city unscrewing things. Let advertisers drool over your work but never return their e-mails.



**STEP 3:** TRAIN TO BE A DEVIANT: TEAR DOWN ADS, LICK EXPENSIVE PAINTINGS, SNIFF PACKETS, STEAL PAINT, CURSE IN THE SOURCE CODE, TRESPASS, TORRENT, INSTALL LINUX, MAKE DRIPPY MARKERS, BUY A LASER, DON CONSTRUCTION GEAR AND GO AROUND THE CITY UNSCREWING THINGS. LET ADVERTISERS DROOL OVER YOUR WORK BUT NEVER RETURN THEIR e-MAILS.

**step 5: Build an Audience**

Build an audience and don't be picky. The Bored At Work Network is ready to be chronically distracted by your My Space page. So make it BLING. Your mission here is to lower office productivity, make open-source the 6th element of hip-hop, and convince suburban kids to stop buying junk and start making better smoke bombs.

★★★★★  
**View Count**  
 From:  
 YouGotRickRolled  
 Views: 2,363,228  
 Added: 4  
 ago  
 Mr



**STEP 4:**

BUILD AN AUDIENCE AND DON'T BE PICKY. THE BORED AT WORK NETWORK IS READY TO BE CHRONICALLY DISTRACTED BY YOUR MYSPACE PAGE, SO MAKE IT BLING. YOUR MISSION HERE IS TO LOWER OFFICE PRODUCTIVITY, MAKE OPEN-SOURCE THE 6TH ELEMENT OF HIP-HOP, AND CONVINC SUBURBAN KIDS TO STOP BUYING JUNK AND START MAKING BETTER SMOKE BOMBS.

## step 6: Make Shit

Make shit. Like a tricycle with an audio system loud enough to set off car alarms. Test your prototype in the streets. Keep the camera rolling, especially if the cops show up. Make a web page to post your documentation and research. Release early, often, and with rap music.



STEP 5: MAKE SHIT.  
LIKE A TRICYCLE WITH AN AUDIO SYSTEM  
LOUD ENOUGH TO SET OFF CAR ALARMS.  
TEST YOUR PROTOTYPE IN THE STREETS.  
KEEP THE CAMERA ROLLING,  
ESPECIALLY IF THE COPS SHOW UP.  
MAKE A WEB PAGE TO POST YOUR  
DOCUMENTATION AND RESEARCH.  
RELEASE EARLY, OFTEN, AND WITH RAP MUSIC.

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## Comments

30 comments [Add Comment](#)



**clark** says:

"curse in the source code" ...amazing

Feb 16, 2009. 1:25 PM [REPLY](#)



**ipatch** says:

best damn instructable there is man! me and my best friend Heaton went out and took some pics with a glow stick and are work on our projection bombing!  
We live and a plain old town not a city but there are plenty of football fields to write our messages on

Feb 15, 2008. 7:19 PM [REPLY](#)

Peace



**Luki101** says:

1. Don't say 'Peace' unless you mean it
2. Peace and Love go together, you cant have one without the other
3. A Graffiti Research Lab probably wont promote Peace and Love, considering the instructable said 'with rap music' and rap music talks about shooting people when they look at your shoes wrong.

Aug 11, 2008. 12:45 PM [REPLY](#)





**lovindorks** says:

Sep 16, 2008. 7:27 AM [REPLY](#)

oh really? ALL rap music is about shooting people? thats interesting because the rap i listen to is about anti war, and everyday life. and many graffiti writers, of all sorts uh.. DO promote peace and love in different forms. if you've ever looked at graffiti a large percent of it is about exactly that. peace and love.



**NeverThere** says:

Aug 15, 2008. 8:04 AM [REPLY](#)

not 100% true. i think graffiti writers (artists) would be more attracted to underground rap and hip-hop, like Aesop Rock and El-P, who both are trying to campaign against war (although not in the same way others are, i'll give you that one.) i agree with the peace and love statement though, thats totally correct.



**dardy\_7** says:

May 9, 2008. 6:36 AM [REPLY](#)

RAGE AGAINST THE MACHINE



**Foxtrot70** says:

Jul 28, 2008. 6:01 AM [REPLY](#)

How true...as soon as computers become self-aware we ARE in trouble. The Terminator movie series is a forbearer of things that could possibly come to pass.



**Parahnus** says:

Dec 24, 2007. 9:36 AM [REPLY](#)

Awesome But I Have Trouble With Major Advertisement Billboards. I Have To Climb The Pole Thingy To Get Up There Do You Know How To Unlock The Ladder So, I Wont Have To Just Fall On My Head Half Way Down???



**rrrmanion** says:

Jul 25, 2008. 1:35 PM [REPLY](#)

try getting like a fire engine, also with that use paint in the hoses instead of water so you can graffiti on the cops cars when you're in the chase and fire up the blues and 2s and graffiti while your shooting it at the



**Grmgunner** says:

Dec 28, 2007. 5:44 PM [REPLY](#)

yea get some buddies to bring your own ladder and prop it up to the existing ladder.



**Parahnus** says:

Jan 13, 2008. 6:09 PM [REPLY](#)

Damm.....We Had To Leave It Somewhere In Hayward. But A Tecate Cervasa Billboard Is More Eye Catching Now



**hac** says:

Jul 2, 2008. 6:58 PM [REPLY](#)

This. Instructable. Rocks. (Except I don't really care for rap music.)



**camb00** says:

May 7, 2008. 10:26 AM [REPLY](#)

i first started of with stickers and stuck them everywhere!. we found a car that was somes who went on holiday so we kinda like stuck 124 sticker on it lol



**oligore** says:

Dec 21, 2007. 1:20 AM [REPLY](#)

"lick expensive artwork" I thought graffiti artists of all people would know what it feel like to have your art damaged.



**Full Frontal Graphic** says:

Mar 23, 2008. 9:03 PM [REPLY](#)

It feels awesome. In the first Gulf War, I used to get the next day's paper as soon as it came out, cut it and xerox it until it was Today's Poster, then go around town putting them up.

Some of the posters would be rudely torn down, and some would be carefully untaped and taken away...

I'm not sure which made me happier.



**unspecified** says:

Mar 11, 2008. 11:26 AM [REPLY](#)


This is Dr. Pimpenstein




**Dim-1** says:


Feb 28, 2008. 7:47 PM [REPLY](#)


I'm almost done building my own GRL, thanks for the instructable.


 **tOmAtE** says: Jan 14, 2008. 3:08 PM [REPLY](#)  
You should read the book "The Cocka Hola Company " by Matias Faldbakken. Its not really about this kind of art but about the view of life you need...

 **Toulouse** says: Jan 11, 2008. 9:42 PM [REPLY](#)  
this is pretty funny. good ideas in here too


 **FireandIcebike** says: Dec 24, 2007. 6:07 PM [REPLY](#)  
Graffiti research certainly sounds like an extremely ambiguous undertaking. Geez!


 **bvicious** says: Dec 18, 2007. 10:03 PM [REPLY](#)  
Where does "Get loads of funding from an art gallery; proceed to dump paint all over their building" fit into this scheme?

 **randof** says: Dec 19, 2007. 6:18 PM [REPLY](#)  
I think you do that *after* you have started your own Graffiti Research Lab.

 **randof** says: Dec 18, 2007. 6:34 PM [REPLY](#)  
Awww shucks... I've already started my own Graffiti Removal Lab. I think the big difference is in Step 5. The GRL puts rock music in our videos.



 **capsure** says: Dec 18, 2007. 4:07 PM [REPLY](#)  
wheatpaste = equal parts flour and water. heat until mixed up good. spread on wall, stick poster, brush on poster. let dry.

 **ledzep567** says: Dec 18, 2007. 3:45 PM [REPLY](#)  
HAHAHAHAH I think this is the only way to describe me and my small group of "bitter" friends. except, we are not too computer proficient. but whatever...  
just one thing that needs to be added.  
wheatpaste and the methods behind it

 **GorillazMiko** says: Dec 18, 2007. 2:58 PM [REPLY](#)  
awesome!

 **Nesagwa** says: Dec 18, 2007. 12:46 PM [REPLY](#)  
Someone sounds a little bitter.

 **nagutron** says: Dec 18, 2007. 1:55 PM [REPLY](#)  
Don't hate the playa: Hate the game.





**bofthem** says:  
shaniqua don't live here no mo.

Dec 18, 2007. 2:49 PM [REPLY](#)

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**jamiew** says:  
Don't forget the all-important "be a freakin pimp"

Dec 18, 2007. 8:03 AM [REPLY](#)

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