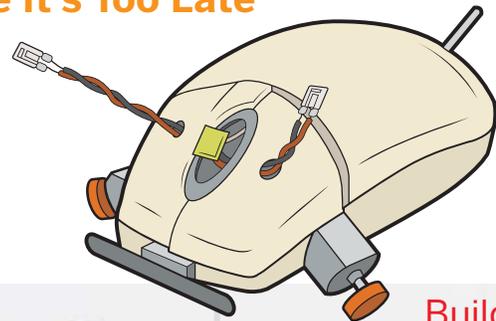


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## RSS Anywhere

*Bloglines.com*

As the number of online news sources grows, keeping current becomes difficult. An RSS client helps organize the mess.

But if you want to read your feeds anywhere, you have to either set up another client, or resort to the "old-fashioned" way of visiting the sites.

Bloglines lets you stay current wherever you may be. The web-based service acts like any aggregator but can be accessed online. With Bloglines, staying current on dozens of news feeds is as easy as checking your email.

—Zach Sloatsky



### Berliner Gramophone Kit and Edison Cylinder Kit, by Gakken

*approximately \$40 each, imported through HobbyLink Japan, www.hlj.com*

These kits are part of a Japanese series of assembly-required, "adult-education" models. The functioning Edison Cylinder and Berliner Gramophone kits offer the allure of carving grooves into compact discs and Dixie cups.

Both kits have a sewing-needle-based pickup and playback assembly, and are constructed from a motor and various bits of

## Everlasting Sandpaper

**Mylar Backed Sanding Film**  
*\$1.69 per sheet*

This stuff has been around forever, but few people seem to know about it. It's like sandpaper, but the abrasives are based on a plastic film. You can roll it, fold it, and wet-sand with it without ruining the sheet or causing grit to get all over your work. I wash sheets that have become clogged or dirty in my kitchen sink. Heavy use makes the stuff more flexible and finer; I have comfortable old

scraps in my toolbox that I've been using for five years. The extra-fine varieties can be used to smooth and polish plastic and certain types of paint finishes.

You'll find sanding film in craft or hobby stores; it comes in small (typically 4"x5½") sheets in a variety of grits. Several brands are available. The ones I've seen most often include Flex-I-Grit (by K&S Engineering) and Super Film (by Houston Art, Inc.).

—Stefan Jones



wood, plastic, and Styrofoam. Gakken has provided thoroughly illustrated instructions in both Japanese and surprisingly well-translated English. The assembly of each kit takes about an hour and only requires a screwdriver, some scotch tape, and a battery.

Once assembled, it's relatively simple to start recording. On both kits, flipping a switch starts the motor spinning; then you speak into a cup for between 30 and 60 seconds. The cup is

directly attached to the needle, which scratches a linear representation of the sound into either a CD or a plastic cup. To play back the recording, the needle rides in the freshly scratched grooves, and the vibrations are transmitted to the cup, producing audible playback.

The Gramophone kit seems to be the most 'show-offable' bang for your buck, though both kits do a fine job of delivering an archaic, hands-on audio experience. Recommended for all ages.

—Adam W. Kempa