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JULY 18, 2011 3:16 PM PDT

Sunglasses smarten up to 'fight' the sun's g

by [Elizabeth Armstrong Moore](#)

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The smart sunglasses, which at this point resemble a James Bond Hall of accoutrement on a budget, are (perhaps obviously) not yet ready for m

(Credit: Dynamic Eye and University at Buffalo)

Some people pay a lot of money for sunglasses that do very little. If new glare-fighting tec continue paying a lot of money, but for sunglasses that actually protect their eyes from the

Since 2003, when he founded [Dynamic Eye](#), entrepreneur Chris Mullin has been working bright spots of light and then darken specific regions of the lenses to block that glare. He h University at Buffalo to bring [to develop sunglasses employing this tech](#).

"Our products let users see more in glare situations than ever before, because they reduce t than any other sunglasses," says Mullin, who has been working with electrical-engineering speed at which glare is found and blocked down to a mere 50 milliseconds.

The glasses include a tiny camera on the bridge that snaps shots of the frames' line of visio glare above a set threshold. If it finds regions that exceed the limit, it alerts a microcontrol themselves LCD screens--to send extra pixels of shade to the targeted region.

The result is a 4- to 6-mm gray square on the lens that moves with the user to block the glare, allowing the wearer to see his or her surroundings.

A bit inelegant, sure, but Mullin suggests this tech could be useful for glaucoma patients who wear contact lenses, mention military and commercial pilots, and could even be used beyond eyewear in, say, vehicle windshields to block above-threshold sun or headlight glare.

"A few circuits, a little battery power, and you can really fight the sun," Mullin says.

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Elizabeth Armstrong Moore

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Elizabeth Armstrong Moore is a freelance journalist based in Portland, Ore. She has contributed to the Christian Science Monitor, and public radio. Her semi-obscure hobbies include unicycling, diving, billiards, Sudoku, Magic the Gathering, and classical piano. She is a member of the CNET community and an employee of CNET.

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