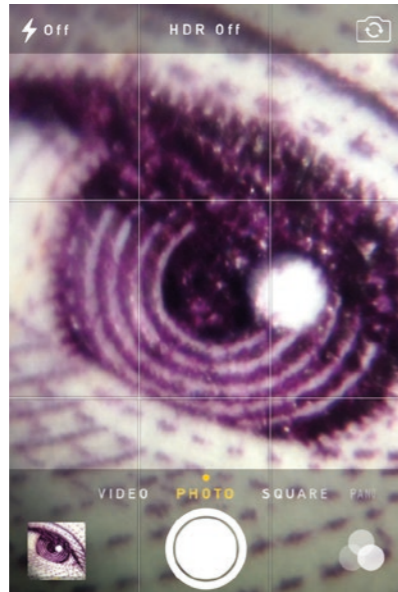


**Micro
Phone Lens**

This may not be the best microscope you've ever owned, but it'll certainly be the smallest. Just 6mm across by 2mm deep, it takes the form of a tiny flexible lens that self-adheres to the one on the back of your phone. Each lens is hand-made from supposedly scratch-proof silicone by its inventor, Thomas Larson, who funded the project this year on Kickstarter.

The microscope works with your regular camera software. It offers 15x magnification, which doesn't sound much, but since it allows an iPhone camera to focus as close as just a few millimetres from the surface, you get an



impressive enlargement. Above is the Queen's eye on a £20 note.

Focus is reasonably sharp, although there's a little softness around the edges. But for the sheer joy of its tiny size, this is a great and inexpensive add-on if you're ready for a close-up.

\$20 including shipping (about £12.50) from microphonelens.com



Logicom
SPY-C Tank

Roughly the size of a traditional vacuum cleaner head, the SPY-C tank also makes a similar noise as it scuttles around your floor. The difference is you can drive this little beast from up to 20 metres away indoors, or up to 60 metres outdoors, using your iOS device.

The tank creates its own wifi network, which takes about 30 seconds to activate after you turn it on. You have to link the iPhone or iPad to it each time you want to play with it, using the Settings panel, which is a bit cumbersome, but typical of such gadgets.

Thanks to a built-in camera and microphone, you can see and hear what's happening in the rooms into which you drive the SPY-C, hence the name. With the night vision mode, you can even see clearly in total darkness. You can tilt the motorised camera remotely, and record stills and movies. You can even record a route, then play it back with a single button press.

It's a lot of fun to drive the SPY-C, despite its jerky video, and this would be a perfect starting point for budding drone pilots or bomb disposal experts. With about an hour's driving from six AA batteries, though, you'd better make sure you're well stocked up.

£130 from sciencemuseumshop.co.uk
See logicom-uk.com for details

Octa
TabletTail Monkey Kit

Another product that arose from a Kickstarter project, the innovative Monkey Kit is based on a hemispherical ball that attaches to the back of any iPad by suction. It's pumped up using a large, chunky button, which guarantees a solid fit. At the other end of the gadget, rather than a regular stand, is a metre-long flexible tail that can be twisted into any position. Curl it up to make a table prop, or if you're in an armchair or lying on a bed you can tuck it under your legs, where, being made of soft silicone, it's surprisingly comfortable.

Because the head can be bent to literally any angle, it's easy to get your iPad in exactly the right position for viewing. The makers claim the suction pump will adhere to just about any surface, including cases, but we found it worked best on a naked iPad or a hard plastic shell; leather doesn't provide the smoothness required for reliable grip.

The kit separates into two for travel, and the pump base can also be used by itself, rested on a tabletop.

£49.99 from Square in Selfridges (coming soon to selfridges.com)

