



CURRENT EVENTS *UCSC's Tesla coil makes the journey to San Mateo this weekend.*

MAKE MY DAY

IT'S LIKE THE *Whole Earth Catalog* come to life, or a science fair for Burning Man freaks. This weekend *Make* magazine, that must-read periodical for DIYers everywhere, throws its annual Maker Faire up the road in San Mateo, and the innovations are blowing our little minds. Chockablock with robots, kooky kinetic sculptures and back-to-basics demonstrations (preserved lemons, anyone?), this year's Faire will also feature custom bike chain-rings, a hand-held theramin for making spooky sci-fi sounds and an old-school gas pump repurposed as a solar-powered charging station. From the Santa Cruz area contingent come a grow-your-own-mushroom kit, an alien abduction lamp that snatches cows from pastures (oh, but yes), solar fireflies that mimic the real thing and the ever-popular Tesla coil from UCSC's Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics. It throws a 5-foot-long arc of electricity that observers can dance in, as long as they first don the stainless steel suit designed just for the purpose. (Traci Hukill)

THE MAKER FAIRE runs Friday-Saturday, May 22-23, at the San Mateo County Event Center, 1346 Saratoga Dr., San Mateo. Tickets are \$25 adult/\$15 student/\$10 kids at makerfaire.com.