

LIGHT-POWERED COMPUTERS

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Computers running entirely on light are very likely in the mid-term future, but what about now? One more immediate application is in the supply of power to components which have relatively low power drains. Instead of maintaining a low-voltage power grid throughout the mass of circuitry, it may be better to direct a light beam onto a ~~light~~ photosurface of each component. This would cut out all the difficulties of power overloads, eg. that lightning strikes or supply spikes. Light could be laser-generated, guided through optical fibres to components actually in use. Developable later to all signals passed via light - complete opto-isolation of components.

MORTAR WITH SANDUST

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Try a mortar mix containing a proportion of jarrah sandust. It should make the mix more plastic, and the final bond more flexible and possibly a better insulator.

STAR-LIGHT DRIVEN SHIPS

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'Sailing' ships, driven before the solar winds, are well documented as a possibility, but have problems with stiffness of the very thin sails involved. A good case for stiffness via inflated ribs?