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## For Glareless Photos, Bring Your Own Clouds

By IAN AUSTEN

**T**oday's Cloud Dome may resemble an inverted Tupperware bowl, but first there was the chopped up milk jug.

When Cindy Lichfield of Lafayette, Colo., went from being a jeweler to developing Web sites for people in the jewelry business, she quickly discovered a shortcoming of her digital camera. The light from its small, built-in flash created unpleasant glare when it struck anything shiny, which is pretty much everything when it comes to jewelry.

"I was having such a horrible time getting good pictures," Miss Lichfield said.

The solution turned out to be a one-gallon milk jug. She cut off its bottom and enlarged the opening at the top to accommodate her camera's lens. The entire creation was then placed over any small object to be photographed. With the setup, the camera's flash struck the sides of the jug and was diffused by the white plastic.

The Cloud Dome evolved because Miss Lichfield began photographing expensive jewelry at a client's store and thought that a milk jug was not sufficiently professional.

The Cloud Dome's plastic is selected to avoid color problems and is molded in a way that Miss Lichfield said provides additional flash diffusion. The price is \$225 for the original Cloud Dome and \$275 for a model with a larger opening to accommodate digital cameras with interchangeable lenses (both are available at [clouddome.com](http://clouddome.com)). The more expensive model also works with 35-millimeter-film cameras. Miss Lichfield said she was hoping to find a market for the Cloud Dome among people who photograph items to sell on [eBay](http://eBay).

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