

Inside Science Research — Physics News Update

[Number 485](#) (Story #3), May 18, 2000 by Phillip F. Schewe and Ben Stein

MICRON-SIZED LASERS can be made from chemicals, solvents, a hot plate and glass beakers, without the need for huge nano-fabrication facilities. Hui Cao and her colleagues at Northwestern University (847-467-5452) last year built a laser whose active medium consisted of a disordered powder of ZnO articles (Update 423). Now they have shrunk the size of the powder laser (see figure at www.aip.org/png) down to one micron in size and operate the device at room temperature. The lasing wavelength is 380 nm and the device operates at room temperature ([Cao et al.](#), *Applied Physics Letters*, 22 May /pnu/2000/; [Select Article](#).)