



Exploding The Phone

db680

www.explodingthephone.com

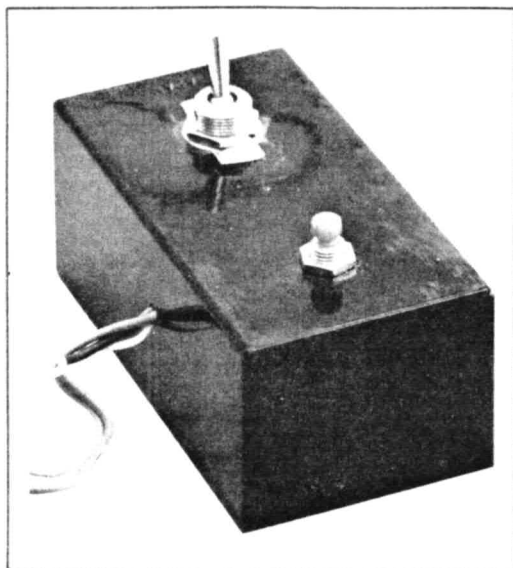
Bibliographic Cover Sheet

Title	To Catch A Thief; Restricted Information
Publication	<i>Bell Canada</i>
Date	1973-00-00
Abstract	Informational pamphlet published by Bell Canada to help law enforcement identify devices used for electronic toll fraud. Covers blue box, black box, cheese box.
Keywords	Bell Canada; blue box; black box; cheese box
Notes	Date estimated as 1973 or 1975 based on printer markings on document.
Source	Anonymous

The following pages may contain copyrighted material. We believe that our use of this material for non-commercial educational and research purposes constitutes "fair use" under Section 107 of U.S. Copyright Law. If you wish to use this material for purposes that go beyond "fair use," you must obtain permission from the copyright owner, if any. While it will make us slightly sad to do so, we will nonetheless comply with requests from copyright owners who want their material removed from our web site.

Black Box

The black box is named for the color of the first one found. It varies in size and usually has one or two switches or buttons. Attached to a telephone line, it provides free toll calling to that line. The black box user tells individuals to place toll calls to him, then operates the switch or button, causing a non-charge condition to be recorded on the telephone company's billing equipment. This easily constructed device is less sophisticated than the blue box.



Cheese Box (Not illustrated)

This electronic toll fraud device can be sophisticated or crude; the size of a 50-cent piece or a five-pound cheese box (the housing of the first one found). It is used most often by bookmakers and bettors. Wagers may be placed either from within the same community or from distant cities with a minimal chance of detection.

The cheese box bridges two separate telephone lines and is usually found in a vacant dwelling, often under floorboards, in desk drawers or in walls. The bookmaker dials one of the numbers associated with the remotely located cheese-box from any location in that city or within the long distance network and stays on the line for the duration of his betting activity. Bettors dial the other number and are cut through to the bookmaker. The cheese box also gives toll free calling on both lines.

If a police raid were conducted at the location of the cheese box there would be no evidence of gambling activity. It is very difficult to identify this unit.

Any officer finding an unusual device associated with telephone connections should contact a Bell Canada Security office immediately.

MS 73-75

TO CATCH A THIEF

RESTRICTED INFORMATION



To Catch a Thief

Several types of electronic devices, designed to defraud telephone companies, have been found in use in Bell Canada territory. These devices — some crude, some extremely sophisticated — are used illegally to obtain long distance telephone service without paying for it. Organized criminals, such as gamblers, could use these devices to avoid billing records of their calls.

This booklet, for informational use only, is designed to help law officers identify these toll fraud devices they find during normal investigative work.

Any member of a law enforcement agency who discovers a unit resembling a long distance fraud device should call Bell Canada security offices for assistance in identification. The telephone numbers are:

For Quebec: Montreal (514) 870-4776
(*during business hours*)
(514) 870-2375
(*out of business hours*)

For Ontario: Toronto (416) 929-8202
(*during business hours*)
(416) 929-6313
(*out of business hours*)

Where long distance rates apply, please call "collect."

Bell Canada's security officers will request law enforcement agencies' assistance in investigating devices uncovered through its own detection methods. Bell will prosecute users of these devices.

On request, Bell Canada will assist law enforcement people in investigations of electronic toll fraud.

Statute of prosecution: Criminal Code of Canada; Article 287 1 (b); Theft of Telecommunications Service.

Blue Box

The blue box, named for the color of the first such device found, varies in size but usually has 13-15 buttons on its face. These buttons emit tones that cause the telephone switching network to react as it would to dialed long distance calls. The blue box can be attached permanently to a telephone line or be placed against the receiver.

To gain access to the switching network, a blue box user calls a free long distance point — for example, Directory Assistance. Disconnecting the first call with a tone from the box, he feeds in the number that he wants anywhere on the long distance network. Telephone company records show only the free toll call and not the subsequent call made by the blue box user.

