

IEEE

THE MAGAZINE OF TECHNOLOGY INSIDERS

# Spectrum

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for the Masses

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Mighty Marvell

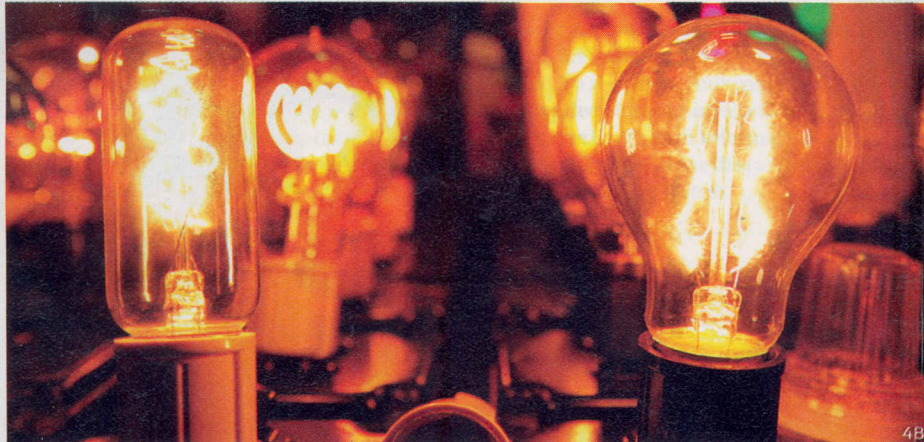
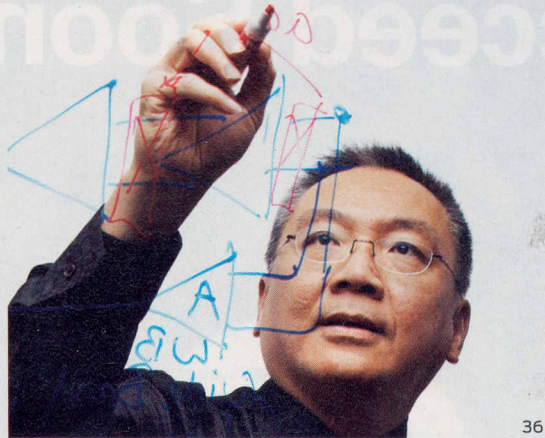
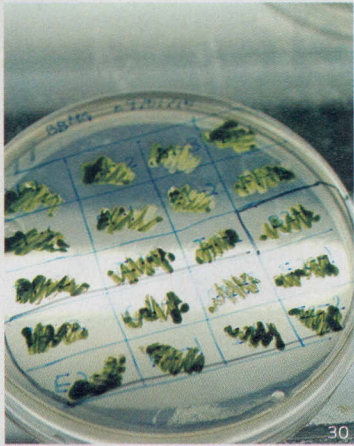
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Algae cells contain oil—lots of oil. Here's why they could make the ideal renewable fuel. *By Philip T. Pienkos, Eric Jarvis & Al Darzins*

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A recently discovered form of carbon is poised to serve as the perfect complement to silicon. *By Alexander Sinitskii & James M. Tour*

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Sehat Sutardja is an old-school analog guy, but he and his company are at the center of a digital device revolution. *By Tekla S. Perry*

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Computer memories based on the bizarre property of electron spin promise to revolutionize data storage.

*By Salah M. Bedair, John M. Zavada & Nadia El-Masry*

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A New York City shop celebrates the glory of the lightbulb in the waning days of incandescence. *By Ariel Bleicher & Randi Silberman Klett*

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A new light source could outshine the competition. *By Sally Adee*

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Tech is key to a modern economy, but it's usually a lousy bet for an investor. *By Philip E. Ross*

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Life is a roller-coaster ride for sure, but is the track shaped like a gentle bell curve or a dangerous power law?

*By Robert W. Lucky*

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This year's guide features four electronics gifts that are so much fun, your kids won't realize how much they're learning. For the grown-ups, we offer the world's sexiest computer mouse and a pocketknife that gives new meaning to the word *switchblade*. And for audiophiles of all ages, there's a musical recording studio on the cheap and a line of headphone amps that reveal not only the colors of your music but also your taste in color.

*By Mark Anderson, Steven Cherry, David Schneider & Harry Teasley*

### 64 THE DATA

You've probably thought all along that throwing darts was a better way to pick stocks than investing in technology companies. Here's the proof.

*By Mark Anderson*