

Tune Out the Digital World with IRL Glasses

By J. A. Awadalla

In January of 2017, a company called Designtex invented [Casper](https://www.steelcase.com/research/articles/topics/innovation/casper-cloaking-technology-privacy-transparency/), a unique film that blocks digital displays when you look through it. Need to keep an important meeting confidential? You can apply this filter to office windows for maximum privacy. It's also a boon for doctors that need to comply with HIPAA regulations. It just has one problem: it isn't exactly portable.

Fortunately, [Ivan Cash](http://ivan.cash) and [Scott Blew](http://scottblew.com/) want to change all that. After reading about this unique film on WIRED, Blew, an entrepreneur and technologist, had a stroke of genius: Why not make it into glasses? The glasses would help the wearer disconnect from technology for a bit by blocking out screens completely, including computer screens and televisions. They also work like standard sunglasses, so they can also give your eyes some protection from harsh sunlight. Blew brought his prototype to Ivan Cash, an artist and film director, and Cash decided the idea was worth pursuing.

After going through multiple prototypes, a campaign was launched on Kickstarter. At time of writing, the [Kickstarter campaign](https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/ivancash/irl-glasses-glasses-that-block-screens) has already obliterated its finding goal, raising more than \$70,000 from over 1,000 backers. Their original goal was a mere \$25,000. One of their future projects include making a clip-on version of their products for prescription glasses.

It does have a few limitations – you should not wear the glasses while driving, and they may not necessarily help if you suffer from migraines or light sensitivity. They also [do not block OLED screens](https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/ivancash/irl-glasses-glasses-that-block-screens/faqs) like those on cell phones, but the duo plans on developing a new filter to block them out in the future. Even so, they could be useful if you just want to disconnect for a while or want to avoid television coverage of certain events. (Ever had the results of a sports game accidentally spoiled for you?) We look forward to seeing what the future holds for these glasses!

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