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VEGAS MYTHS BUSTED: Women Shouldn't Wear Red in Casinos

Last updated on: August 18, 2025, 11:19h.



Written by **Corey Levitan** corey@casino.org.

Hello Corey,

My name is George Joseph. A friend recently sent a link to the above article you wrote in August of 2025. I wish you had contacted me. I would like to "Un-Bust" your Bust. In my book "Why Shouldn't A Woman Wear Red In A Casino"...I make the claim that the old black & white surveillance cameras could under certain conditions see through certain clothing fabrics.

Your article begins with a false statement...Quoting your article.

- The author of "Why Shouldn't a Woman Wear Red in a Casino?" claims that infrared security cameras can see through sheer or thin red garments on the casino floor.



Left is what an infrared camera would see. I don't mention infrared security cameras, but rather B&W surveillance cameras that see infrared. Photo Right.



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Quoting from my book...

Red chips (or any red colored item) appear as an **off white**. The human eye sees between 400 and 700 nanometers of light, while the Infra-Red capability of a black and white camera sees up to about 1100 nanometers of light and can **be set to see much higher**. To the average surveillance operator, this information means very little until a woman walks into the casino **wearing a flimsy red colored silk dress or top**. In many cases, the camera doesn't see much of the color red and, in affect, you see through the dress. In August of 1998, a news story ran on CNN. The reporter told of how a Sony camcorder equipped with infrared light capability for night vision was seeing through certain types of clothing. **Calm down, come back! Before you go running to Circuit City, Sony has pulled the camcorder and adjusted the infrared level**. It is available online . . . what a country!

Your article also confuses black and white casino surveillance cameras with the Sony camcorder that has a Nightshot feature. There is ample evidence that both camera types can at times see through clothing.



This Sony camera got pulled because it had Superman X-ray vision that could see through clothes!

News By Mike Harris | Published December 5, 2025

Sony inadvertently caused a furor in the late '90s when it was discovered that a cheap filter could give a night-vision camcorder 'X-ray vision'

Your Article: Joseph started by explaining that infrared cameras **(Again...Not infrared cameras but B&W surveillance cameras)** see red as off white. So why should the red in a red dress appear invisible instead of just off white?

The answer is you need to understand infrared. If the clothing or material reflects infrared light it looks sort of off white. If the clothing or material absorbs infrared light it can appear sort of transparent.

There is ample evidence...



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OnePlus to Disable Controversial Phone Camera That Could See Through People's Clothes

by Alex Cooke
May 19th, 2020 10 Comments

Smartphone manufacturer OnePlus has announced they will be sending out a software update to temporarily disable the Color Filter function on their 8 Pro phone after users complained it allowed them to **see through some clothing**. The phone's Color Filter camera has a special function that uses the 5-megapixel infrared camera to render photos, creating interesting creative effects and allowing the user to sometimes see through things like the plastic casing around electronics. The problem is that a lot of clothing is relatively transparent to infrared light as well, as you can see below.

Cameras Let Voyeurs See Through Clothes

By ABC News
August 6, 2001, 6:22 PM



Using the "X-ray camera" (Sony) and two volunteer models, Hunter demonstrated that a viewer could see that the **female model wore nothing under a black, patterned skirt and that a man has a tattoo** that says "Sosa" under his shirt. But he points out that both models knew they were being photographed.

New security camera can 'see' through clothes

Published: Apr. 16, 2008 at 12:36 PM PDT

The camera can see through people's clothes from up to 25 meters away, detecting objects. New technology that can "see" through clothing and detect what's underneath can now be used to scan crowds making it a potentially effective tool to prevent terrorist attacks in public places.

Japanese Man Arrested for Infrared Camera Pics of Underage Swimmers

Jay Allen · January 17, 2025 · 1 min read

Police say Miyake used an infrared light filter and special techniques to try and capture so-called "see-through" photos showing the athlete's bodies underneath. Infrared photography can sometimes reveal what's under garments given the right conditions, especially with tight clothing.

There is ample evidence to support my claim...

In 1998, Sony inadvertently released a line of Handycam camcorders featuring a low-light technology called NightShot. Users quickly discovered that under very specific daytime conditions, **this mode could make certain types of clothing appear transparent.** The issue led to a massive public privacy scandal, forcing Sony to halt production and modify their cameras. [1, 2]

How the "X-Ray" Effect Worked

The phenomenon was not magic or intentional engineering, but an unintended side effect of physics and optics: [1]

- The IR Cut Filter: Every regular digital camera sensor is naturally sensitive to invisible infrared (IR) light. **To keep colors looking normal, manufacturers place an internal filter over the sensor to block IR wavelengths.** [1, 2]
- The NightShot Mechanism: When a user flipped on Sony's NightShot switch, a mechanical mechanism physically moved that IR-blocking filter away from the sensor. This allowed the camera to see in total darkness by utilizing built-in infrared LEDs. [1]

Fabric Transparency: Many synthetic fabrics, swimsuits, and dark, thin materials do not absorb or reflect infrared light the same way they do visible light. Instead, IR light passes right through them, bounces off the skin underneath, and returns to the camera sensor, rendering the clothing mostly transparent.

Why It Saw Through Clothes

Human eyes see "visible light" reflecting off the surface of clothing. However, infrared light has longer wavelengths that can pass directly through thin synthetic fabrics (like swimwear, nylon, silk, and some polyesters). [1] When the infrared light passed through the clothes, it reflected off the person's skin beneath and traveled back to the camera sensor. **The result was a monochrome, somewhat translucent image that could reveal underwear, tattoos, or skin beneath the outer layer of fabric.** It was largely ineffective on heavier, tightly woven natural fabrics like cotton or wool. [1]

From My Book: Red chips (or any red colored item) appear as an off white.



Red \$5.00 casino cheques appear Off White on a black & white camera.



Red Cheques & Red Cards under B & W Camera



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Here is another error in your article. **NOTE: Your quote highlighted in yellow.**

Indeed, before Sony modified its NightShot camera, it could render sheer synthetic fabrics (often red or black) as semi-transparent. But this effect was seen strictly in bright sunlight, which radiates powerfully in the infrared due to the sun's heat.

Sheer Nonsense

Most clothing, even thin silk, blocks or absorbs enough IR indoors to prevent seeing anything clearer than vague outlines and heat patterns, according to every reputable internet source on the subject we could find.

Seeing body parts, or even undergarments, in any detail is impossible. **Not True.**



But this effect was seen strictly in bright sunlight. **Again, Not True.**



“Don’t these pictures prove the claim...?”

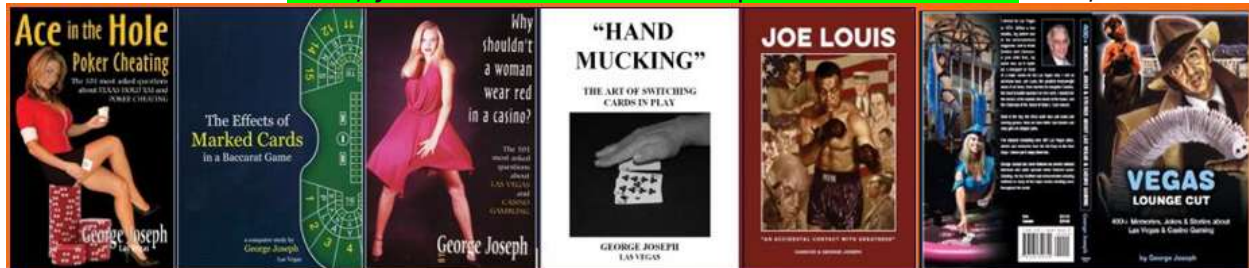
This picture was taken indoors with standard casino lighting.



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Joseph's one and only book, which is self-published, obviously required a grabby title to help move it to the masses. And "Why Shouldn't a Woman Wear Red in a Casino?" worked. "Yes, your correct the title helped sell the book." But,



Pictured are several books I have published, not to mention computer studies.

The casino security consultant you rely on in your article is apparently not aware of the technical specifications of black & white surveillance cameras of that era. The first generation of casino surveillance cameras were by and large powered by Vidicon vacuum tubes.

◆ AI Overview

In the 1980s, casinos relied on black-and-white closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras powered by Vidicon vacuum tubes to monitor gaming tables, cashiers, and slot areas. These analog cameras offered high-contrast monochrome imagery ideal for spotting card manipulation or cheating, though they required high light levels and suffered from image retention ("comet-tailing") under bright casino lights. 🔗

Because Vidicon Tubed cameras required higher light levels, casinos began to migrate to the more robust Nuvicon (Newvicon) powered tubed cameras.

A Nuvicon tube is an older type of camera vacuum tube sensitive to near-infrared light. When paired with an infrared-pass filter under strong sunlight, Nuvicon and similar early black-and-white video tubes could render certain thin, dark synthetic or cotton fabrics semi-transparent, creating a faint see-through effect. [1, 2] Pictured below is a Nuvicon Camera, IR Cut Filter and a device to detect infrared.





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Your security consultant states, "I've never heard of this," Del Marva told *Casino.org*, "and casinos consistently look for potential liability issues to deal with, so I would have heard of it if it was true." ("Why Hasn't He...?")

Then he is also not aware that casino surveillance techs would routinely remove or add IR cut filters to gain better image results in low light areas. These black & white cameras had a better capability to look for weaknesses and anomalies in casino gaming equipment. Notice how surveillance was able to see through a plastic cut card and determine the value of a playing card which was supposed to be protected.



I turned a card to illustrate an inferior plastic shoe.

"Back In The Day", the old B&W Cameras allowed us to examine Pai Gow Tiles to verify the manufacturer was not using substandard plastic.



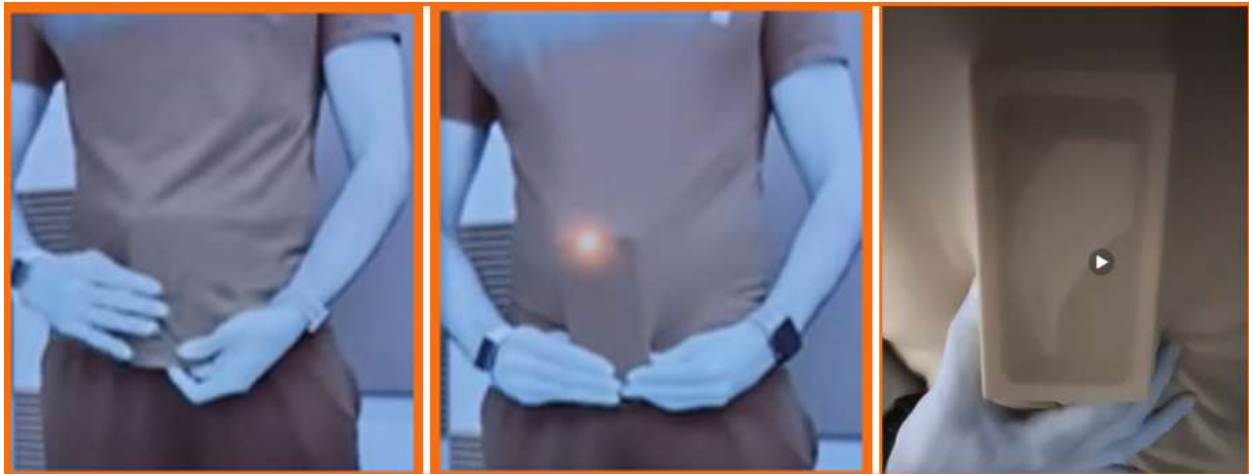
Our cameras (including a Sony Nightshot) could see through ¼ inch thick plastic.



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You should also be aware that some casino surveillance departments used the “See Through” capability of the old black and white cameras to help detect illegal sports betting and bookmaking. Before sports betting became legal in many States in 2018, the only legal place to make a sports bet was Las Vegas. As you know, sports bettors in any given town will wager on the home team, even in spite of bad odds offered by bookmakers. For the bookmaker not to get “Sided” or “Middled” on a game, they had to “Layoff”. The logical place to layoff was Las Vegas. *“Back In The Day”*...Many casino sportsbooks would not allow cell phones and were constantly on the lookout for “Runners” laying off sports wagers. We used black & white camera technology to surveil the sportsbook looking for the IR heat signature underneath a customer’s clothing produced by hidden transmitting devices.



Your security consultant also stated,

“All the big casinos have people in their organizations with as much knowledge about infrared cameras as the guy who made these accusations,” **(NOT ALWAYS TRUE)** Del Marva said. “If his claim were true, it would be the obligation of every casino to give women notice as soon as they enter.” “And they’ve never done that, so this is just a bunch of bullshit.” **“Yes”, “It’s bullshit to him because he just doesn’t know”**



In fairness, I noticed that the security guy upon which you relied has never been a surveillance director in a casino or worked in a casino surveillance room, so apparently, he is not familiar with the state of casino surveillance equipment and cameras in the 1980s & 1990s leading up to the time I wrote the book in the early 1990s. You might be interested to know that surveillance camera suppliers do not manufacture a low light black and white camera for casinos any longer. From the inception of casino surveillance cameras in the late 1970s up to the mid-2000s, casino surveillance cameras were predominately black and white. FYI: (Pass this to your “Bartender” along with the pics.)

AI Overview

Sony phased out its specialized analog black-and-white security cameras (such as the popular Exwave HAD series used extensively in casinos during the 1990s and 2000s) by the late 2000s as the industry transitioned entirely to color and high-definition IP digital surveillance. Late 1990s–2000s: Monochrome CCD models like the [Sony SSC](#) and Exwave series were standard in casino surveillance for their superior low-light sensitivity.

- Early to Mid-2000s: Dedicated high-resolution monochrome cameras were still heavily used in gaming control rooms because black-and-white sensors offered better low-light sensitivity and higher TV line resolution than early color chips.
- The Shift (c. 2005–2008): With the refinement of [Sony EXview HAD](#) and removable IR-cut filter technologies (popularized in lines like the [Pelco Spectra III](#) and IV dome systems), cameras could dynamically shoot in color during well-lit daytime conditions and switch to crisp black-and-white in low light. [1, 2, 3]

In today's gaming world virtually all casino surveillance cameras are color. Many surveillance color cameras switch to black & white in low light situations. In literally thousands of Casino Game Protection Classes I have conducted, I am surprised that most casino executives are not aware of the types of surveillance cameras used in the 1980s & 1990s and the capabilities of that equipment. **(Neither is your expert)**



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**I hope this letter puts the question in better perspective for you.
I still find it interesting that you didn't contact me for comment.
Looking forward to your response.**

Respectfully Submitted,

**George D. Joseph
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<https://www.casino.org/contact/>