

TAP 504-1: Uses of lasers

- repairing damaged retinas
- bar code reader
- communication via modulated laser light in optical fibres
- neurosurgery - cutting and sealing nerves sterilization – key hole surgery (microsurgery)
- laser video and audio discs (CD and DVD)
- cutting metal and cloth
- laser pointer
- laser printer
- holography - three-dimensional images
- surveying - checking ground levels
- production of very high temperatures in fusion reactors
- laser light shows
- making holes in the teats of babies' bottles
- cutting microelectronic circuits
- physiotherapy - using laser energy to raise the temperature of localised areas of tissue e.g. removing tonsure tumours
- laser lances for unblocking heart valves; removal of tattoos or birth marks
- laser guidance systems for weapons
- laser defence systems ('Star Wars')
- a modification of the Michelson-Morley experiment to check the existence of the ether
- distance measurement
- laser altimeters