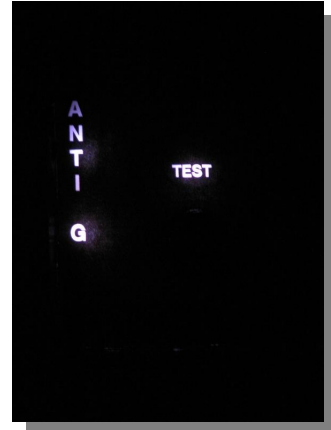# How to put some backlight to the panels

It took a long time before I decided how to make some backlight on the panels.
For a year ago I saw some little leds already wired and for only 80 dollar cents it was really a bargain to me. Just one of these little Christmas lights behind the panels and for a few dollar it was done. With some hot glue and a small resistor it was not that much work to install and it looked ok to me. But for some reason I never wend on making all the panels that way.

On the right you see the lights I mend.
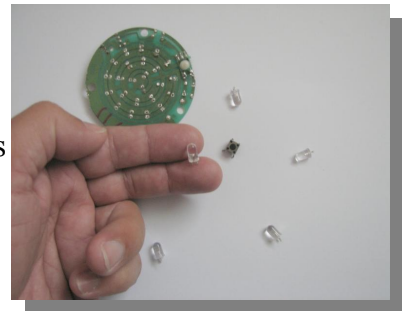
And the panel I tested with this solution.

On the top of this page you see how it looked like, simple easy and cheap.

A few weeks ago I discovered some really interesting magnetic lights working on two batteries and filled with 24 beautiful bright white leds.
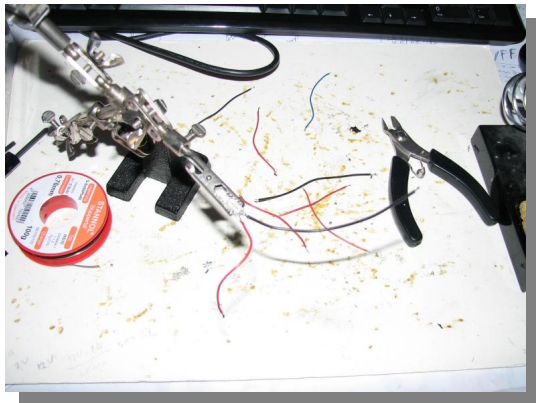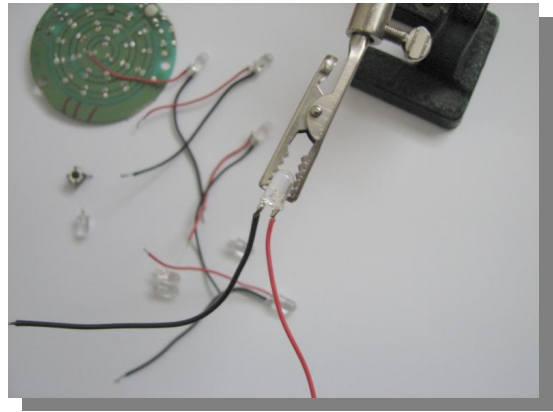For only 2 dollar you get 24 bright white leds, so I gave it a go. And started , as every cockpit builder will recognize, to take these items apart to look if it is usable.
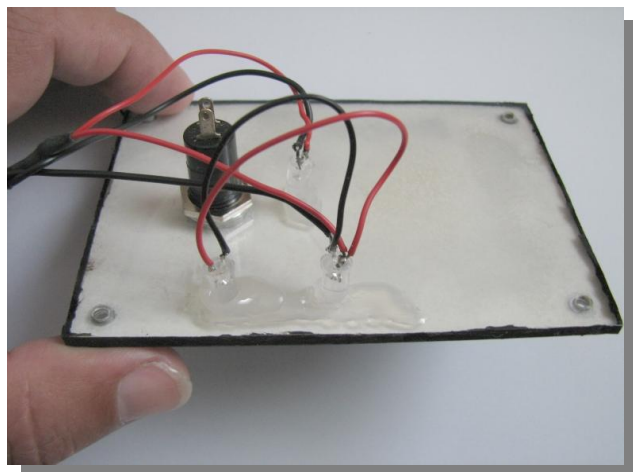

With a small soldering iron it was not that hard to melt the leds from the little circuit board. If you do be quick leds will be ruined when they get overheated.

The next step is to solder some wires on the leds. It is handy to use a little clamp to hold the led.
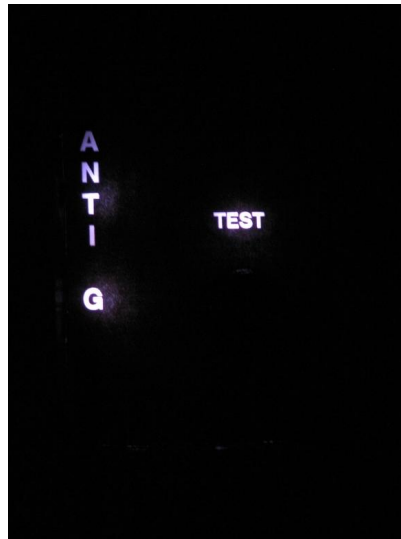In this way the soldering process will be a very quick one so the leds will stay alive.

Now we have to put the light behind the panel. I use for this hot glue. Look where the light will have to go and then put some glue on the aria where the word is printed. The hot glue will dry as a milky white layer and this will prevent the leds to shine to bright in one spot. The hot glue will also give us the opportunity to place the leds in an angle when there is no room to place the led at the right spot.

Use a small resistor, when using 5V use 100 OHM or when using 12V use 330 OHM

When using a slightly higher resistor you are able to dimm the brightness of the light a bit.
On the picture below you see my first test panel and the next few weeks I will spend my time on all the other panels I think ;-).

In reality it looks better than on this picture.

Keep 'm flying,

Rien "HAMMER" Heideveld

If questions or comments, please mail me.

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