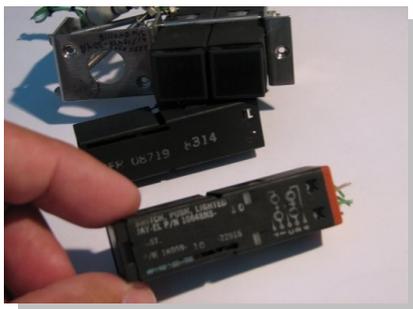


The modification of some real warning lights

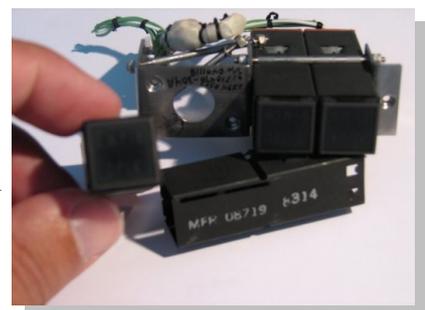


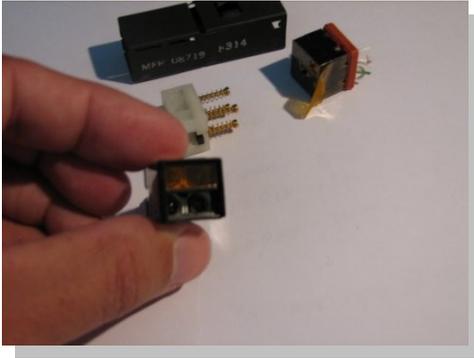
Most of the builders will discover the pit will never arrive on the final stage. For some its because the project is slowly dying, but the die hard's have to admit there's always something that can be improved. Money is one of the main reasons to compromise in the parts we use to make a simulator. And there's nothing wrong in building a working simulator with home made parts and substitutes for the real knobs and bolts. In fact its nice you can tell the visitors you made it yourself, just put it this way “we are builders no buyers, are we?”.

For years I had some big lights with red glass to function as the eyebrow warning lights. They didn't looked like the real thing but they did there job and that's all that matters in a simulator. I found some Jay-el lights on the marked for a reasonable price and decided to buy them and replace the former ones. It took quite a while to come up with a solution for the lettering without ruining the black glass on the front, and give the lights the look they deserve.



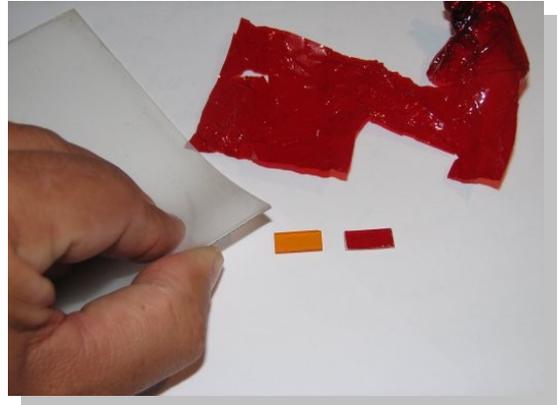
On the left is a picture of the lights I used. I decided to use some white led's. So I had to open it and had a look inside to find out what was possible with these guys.



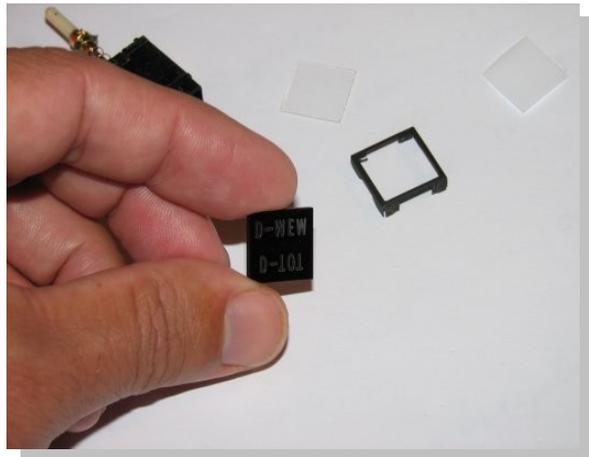
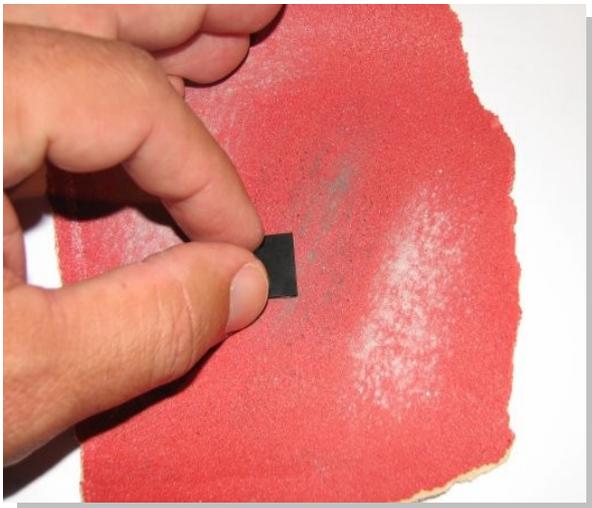


The original light had four light bulbs installed, they shined through two little yellow filters to make the lettering light up with yellow light. For the eye brow lights in the F-16 use the color red I had to replace the yellow glass with red ones.

If possible, always keep it simple. For the red lenses I used thin plexiglass (its easy to cut with a pair of scissors) and for the red color I glued red foil on the plexiglass. Put on two layers or more to get the color you want.



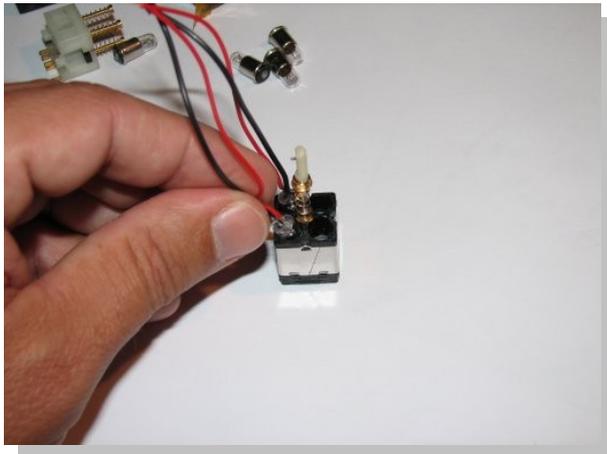
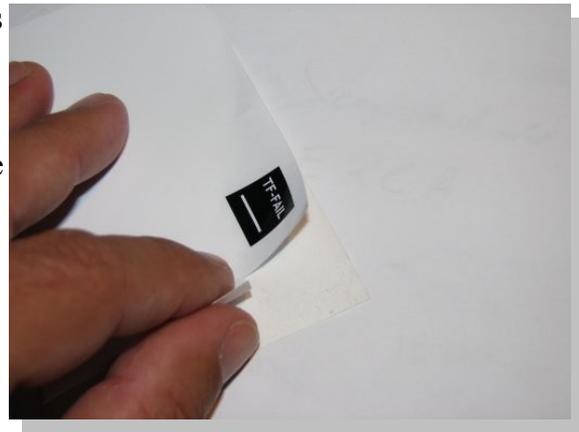
It's obvious the lights I bought didn't had the lettering needed to be useful in an F-16 pit. The solution was quite simple. I took a peace of sanding paper and sanded the backside of the glass as long as needed to get rid of all the text on them.



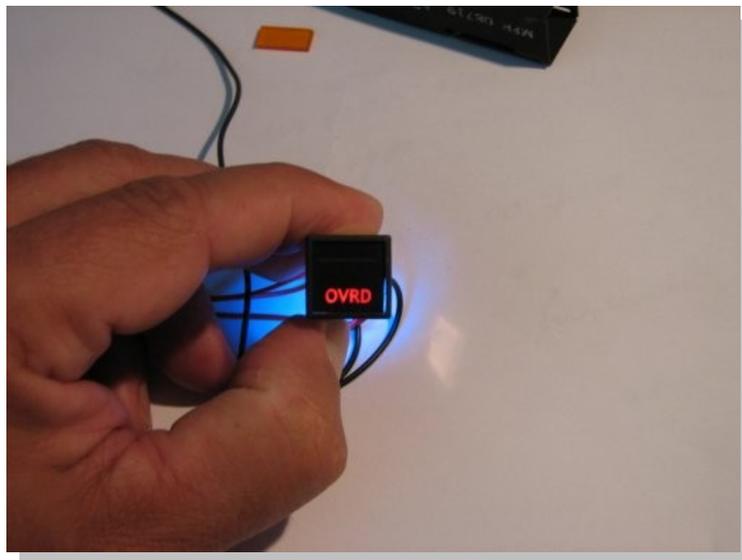
I use bright white led's for the lightning. Colored led's are in my opinion less useful because of the brightness which will be less bright. Then it will be impossible to use paper and you will have to use some overhead sheet to let the light shine through, the light will in that case also shine through some of the black areas.

As stated above, I used paper. To let the light shine through I printed the text on glossy photo paper. On that material black will be black.

To let the light shine through more easily remove some layers of the paper on the backside.



I removed the four lamps and replaced them by led's. I used some hot glue to hold them in place.



After wiring up the leds and putting the lenses, sheet of paper and the original glass in place it looked like the picture above. I'm happy I took the time to come up with an solution that wouldn't ruin the original glass on the outside. That's a tip I would give to all the builders take your time! There are so many things to do on your project don't ruin a original or useful part just to get it installed as soon as possible but think it over and one day you will see the Light. Led it be.



As always I keep asking all the others in this loony hobby, make some little pdf's with the pictures you make on the road, and share them with others.

They may make improvements and so we can build our dreams faster and maybe cheaper.

Keep 'm flying,

Rien "HAMMER" Heideveld

If questions or comments, please mail me.

email: info@f16simulator.nl

[HTTP://www.f16simulator.nl](http://www.f16simulator.nl)

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