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# Make It Glow: LED Projects For The Whole Family



## Synopsis

Everyone loves to play with light and this collection of kid-ready LED projects will have young Makers exploring electricity and electronics while opening up a world of endless fun! Makers, tinkerers, hobbyists, and parents will be drawn to the decorative and exciting possibilities of the projects in *Make It Glow*. Filled with full-color photographs and step-by-step instructions that anyone can follow, this beautiful book features 21 exciting projects that can be completed by even the youngest Maker. You'll start with ultra simple projects and then tackle increasingly complicated ones. Building upon lessons learned in earlier projects ensures that kids learn and succeed. Everyone will be thrilled by the fun, decorative designs that result as you develop new ways to unleash your creativity! With *Make It Glow*, you'll learn to make: Blue-light greeting cards, Eyes in the dark, Flickerbugs, Light-up fairy wings, An illuminated tote bag, A bouquet of electric roses, and more! Featuring beautifully photographed inspirational projects for kids and adults, *Make It Glow* helps you learn the basics of electronics and soft circuits to create costumes, home decorations, clothing, jewelry, and more. What will you illuminate?

## Book Information

Age Range: 9 and up

Paperback: 136 pages

Publisher: Maker Media, Inc; 1 edition (September 24, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1680451057

ISBN-13: 978-1680451054

Product Dimensions: 7.6 x 0.4 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #434,623 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Electricity & Electronics](#) #47 in [Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Electrical & Electronics > Electronics > Sensors](#) #206 in [Books > Children's Books > Science, Nature & How It Works > How Things Work](#)

## Customer Reviews

Three Questions with Emily Coker What makes LEDs so perfect for learning with kids? Working with simple circuits and LEDs provides a fantastic creative introduction to electronics. The projects featured in the book are not only safe, but also adaptable and open to artistic vision and revision.

Simple circuits are typically safe to play with and offer immediate gratification. Which projects in the book are your favorites? I think both the light-up bugs and the power cuffs are a great way to really dig in and get creative. They each have room to expand on the technology, like adding a vibrating motor to the bugs or sensors to create smarter wearable cuffs. What sets your book apart?

'Make It Glow' provides creative projects that anyone can do together with inexpensive and readily available materials. The book also has just the right amount of mature projects but with plenty of fun added. You can really go further with any of these projects—they are all unique and awesome. **LED the Way!** Use clear nail polish to seal the stitching when you're creating wearable LED projects. Always test your LEDs before adding them into your projects to ensure they have the right effect as they have different voltage requirements. Depending on the LED's power draw, most coin cell batteries only last three to five days.

Emily Coker is a maker professional who is passionate about empowering herself and others through hands on learning and making. When not creating projects for the masses, she can be spotted tinkering around in her shop futzing with electronics, robotics and the latest in tech and craft. She is an avid comic and graphic novel enthusiast who enjoys drawing. Emily is also a contributing author for Make: magazine and Makezine.com. Kelli Townley is a lifelong creator and tinkerer. When she was a little girl, she built circuits with her dad, sewed fingerless gloves with a 1930s singer sewing machine from a thrift store, and disassembled electronics (like that VCR that kept eating tapes). As an adult, she's worked in video games, VFX/animation, education, and most recently, virtual reality. In her spare time, she's constantly doing hands-on projects like upholstery, cosplay, woodworking, and quilting. Kelli is passionate about encouraging makers of all ages and skill levels, and hosts frequent making get togethers with her friends and colleagues.

— This is a great book for getting new crafty ideas that glow. You have to have batteries (2032 disk batteries) and LED's on hand, and in some cases some other special items, copper foil for one. Since I also do stained glass I had copper foil available... you can get it at stained glass shops and online. Other projects you can improvise on parts. Projects are fun and all center around the effect of the LED's. They go from easy to hard. I think most kids will be able to do them. My kindergartner watched me make a circuit with the foil and he was able to duplicate what I did and make his LED work too, but I think this book is geared to kids a bit older. Some of the projects feel a little repetitive in the easy section, you can make a ghost with glowing eyes, or a monster with glowing eyes, or a bug with glowing eyes.... you get the picture, but the LED part is great fun for kids and takes crafting

to a whole other level. You don't have to have the exact parts for some of the projects, and this book leaves some room for improvisation. My older son was inspired by the book to do a constellation project with LED's for 4H, where he'll wire up the back of a foam board with the batteries and the LED's will pop through the front showing the big dipper, then he will write up a little fact sheet about each star and the constellation.

Gonna makes storm/thunder cloud. Some neat ideas

As a former home schooling parent (my kids are grown now, but will always be life-long learners!), this is just the kind of book I love. Hands-on learning is the best way for retaining information. There's nothing better to make science fun than combining it with art & crafting! Since my husband has been working on lighting up his LEGO city, we already have most of the pieces for the 20+ projects in this book, but you can easily find all of them right here on [Amazon](#), or a local electronics store, and the components are very reasonably priced. I was thrilled to be able to receive this book because I'm a crafter and I've been meaning to make greeting cards that light up. It's also a great way for us to spend time working on the projects with my niece and nephew. The projects are appealing to three levels of experience, so there's something for all ages. And will be useful for years if your kids are smaller. I love that each of the 4 chapters in this book focus on a 'purpose', thus, helping kids to think about future career paths for the skills they will be acquiring. Chapter 1) Glowies and Throwies - light things up, including a glow-dart game. Chapter 2) Paper Circuits - folding & taping simple circuits (exactly what I need for cardmaking!) Chapter 3) Soft Circuitry and Wearables - Clothing and lighting? How fun is that?! Chapter 4) Twist, Solder, Tape & Hack - Advancing your skills by bringing it all together. You could probably do some of these projects with smaller kids, but I'd recommend it for an advanced eight year old or average ten year old and up. You can find the circuit stickers here on [Amazon](#). Just search for "Chibitronics" or 'Circuit Stickers'. They're a little on the expensive side, but I imagine that's because there is really nothing else like it out there. SeedStudio seems to have some, but similarly priced. This is the only reason the book got 4 and not 5 stars from me - the projects using the circuit stickers were designed by the founder of Chibitronics. I feel like it's a bit of a sales push. What I love about this book is that it's appealing equally to boys and girls. It's not demeaning to girls by being dumbed down, and the projects are interesting to anyone.

Fun book for the entire family. Does a great job of teaching the basics of LEDs and how to light

them up and use them. The projects are all actually very simple and easy to do. A lot of fun for all skill levels. I would have liked to see some more advanced projects (like putting LEDs into paintings or working with furniture etc.) but you can take the knowledge you learn in this book and apply it to more advanced projects. We love LEDs in our home. From night lights to accent lighting and everything in between we have a ton of LED lights in our home. My kids are having a blast with the ideas in this book and I definitely recommend it to anyone interested in learning the fundamentals of DIY LED projects.

The projects are detailed with colored graphics/pictures so if you're not into reading what you need to do and you have the brains to figure things out, you can! And they are fun as well - whether you're able to put things together or not - it'll be a fun thing to do with the little guys. In my opinion, this will help build some imagination, innovation and know how. It would absolutely beat spending hours on electronic gadgets wasting away the minds of the younger generation...

I love the "Make" do-it-yourself project books, because the projects are fun, even as they teach scientific principles. In MAKE IT GLOW: LED PROJECTS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY, the focus is on connecting button-sized, 3-volt, lithium coin-cell batteries (CR2032 batteries) to LEDs with metal wires, threads, and tapes, in order to create one-way circular pathways (circuits). I'm always pleased to see projects that may trigger an interest in science in a young girl, and this book has several (e.g., awesome ornaments, shooting star card, power cuff, fairy wings, glue-jewel royal crown). The clear step-by-step instructions are profusely illustrated with color photos, and are very easy to follow. The spiral binding lets the pages stay open and lie completely flat. One cautionary note: "Children working on the activities in this book will often need adult supervision. Depending on the project, participants may be asked to use craft knives, hot-glue guns, needles, soldering irons, and other tools that will require oversight." You can purchase 2032 batteries cheaply in bulk from many sellers; and other materials are readily available for purchase at retail hardware and crafts stores, or online.

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