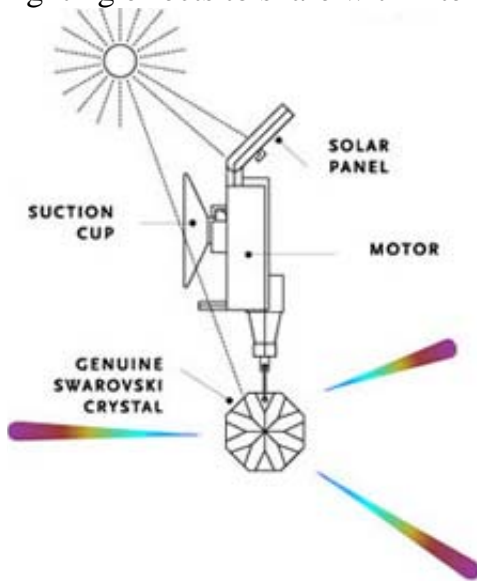


Let there be Light 1

Alan Wilburn

My wife and I have always been interested in lighting effects to brighten up our house. When we first moved into our present house one of the first things I did was fix a fire surround to the existing gas fire and made a mantel shelf, behind which I fixed a 3 foot fluorescent tube with a red tube to illuminate the fire and crystal nicknacks on top of it. Over the years we picked up a few lighting gadgets, mainly from mail order catalogues, as there is nowhere locally that deals in anything of that nature. Having acquired a PC to access the Web there are many opportunities to extend our quirks and some of these will be mentioned in this, and later articles, feel free to send in your favourite lighting effects to share with interested readers.



One of the first things we came across was a 'RainBow Maker' (everybody knows there is no such thing as a rainBOW don't they?) which is attached to the window. It has a solar panel which rotates a crystal which refracts the light giving primary colours in oval shapes. These coloured ovals are then projected over walls, ceiling and floors. As the mechanism only works on sunny days it will last for quite a time! We get great pleasure from the lights

revolving around the room and also watching our cat chase them, the only other thing it enjoys more is chasing the red dot from a laser pointer! So we can amuse it day and night. Having bought a house which faces south and having an open aspect we have plenty of ovals of light flashing around the room all the year round. A few years ago the rooms at the back of the house had light reflected from a mobile, in the garden, using the many free internet CDs that I was inundated with at the time.



Circuit board on battery

you place a battery with a small LED gizmo attached that cycles through the colours of the spectrum and these colours are visible through the wax. On the circuit board are two switches, one to start the cycle and another that will freeze the LED on a selected colour. The first few we bought used 9 volt metal cased batteries that lasted 15 hours, since then they have altered the circuitry so it works from a special 4.5 plastic battery that lasts for 100 hours.

A few years ago we bought some 'lounge lights', these are glass domed cylinders coated in wax to make them into candles. The top of the candle is a number of inches above the dome and has a wick so that it can be lit. Inside the cylinder



The slight problem with the latter is that you have to send away for the batteries instead of picking a set up from the



corner shop as for the earlier 9 volt version. They are bringing new designs out all the time and you can now get a circular candle shape which has three colour units inside it and takes 3 tea lights on the top. There is also a projector, that has just come out, which shines the changing light onto anything. We have a 2 foot high model of a fully rigged sailing ship and we mount 3 lights behind the sails to illuminate them in different colours and giving a changing spectrum on the ceiling. As a warning beware of buying from Lounge Lights USA, I tried to buy a few projectors as a present for my wife, they did not arrive and I had no answers to emails, it took months to get my money back from my credit card company.

Searchs in Google on Rainbow Maker and Lounge Lights will give a large number of hits so you can surf and find your best deal.

We have found that [The Glow Company](#) stocks many of these items at a reasonable price and top class delivery time.



Projector