

AN ILLUMINATED BOWL



Here's a way to make your bowls stand out in the crowd, or to give them that festive air – embed lights into a resin rim.

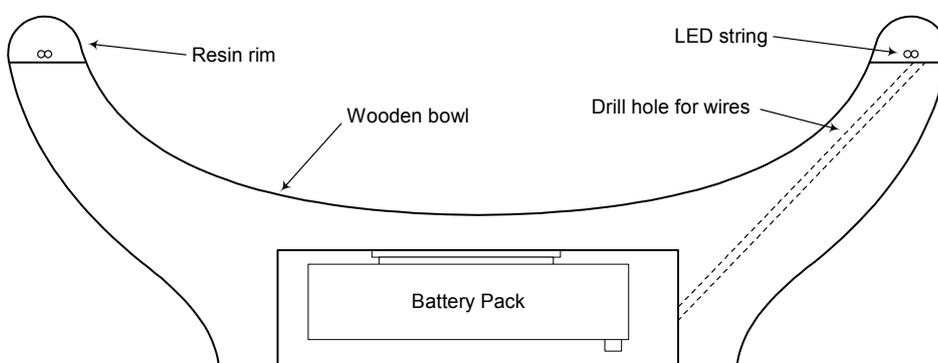
The lights I used were a string of LEDs wired to a separate plastic battery case with built-in switch. Three AA size cells fit in the battery case.

A basic bowl is turned, but the base is recessed out to hold the battery pack. I glued a piece of velcro to the base of the recess and the other piece of velcro to the battery pack to hold it in there. Keep the top lip of the bowl wide and turn out a groove about 20mm wide and 16mm deep.

At some stage you will have to drill a small hole from the centre of the groove through the wall into the battery recess for the wire. I then made a temporary inner and outer wall for the groove about 3mm thick. When you glue the lights down, these walls will keep the lights central, so that you do not cut the lights or wire when you turn off the sides of the groove. I also painted the base of the groove the same colour as the lights. Insert the lights, and the wire down into the battery recess. Block the hole with glue or wood filler etc. remove the temporary walls, and pour in the resin.

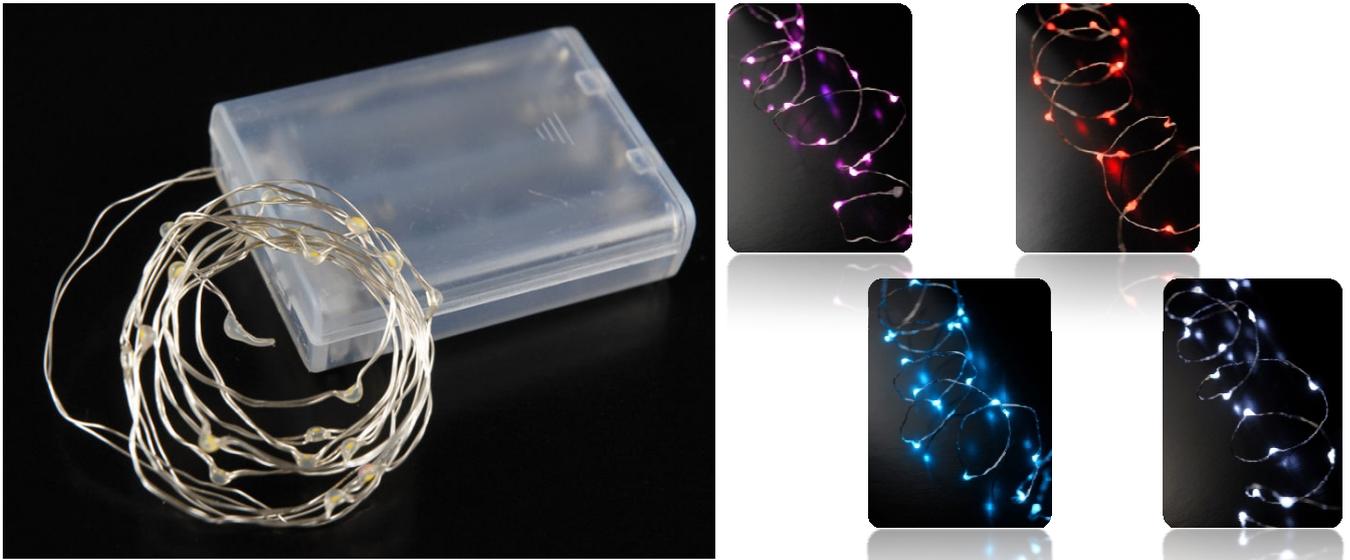
Turn the resin so that you finish with a half round shape on top. Reshape the bowl without cutting into the drilled hole or the lights and finish off as usual. Insert the battery case and join the wires!!

Result is one Christmas 'light' bowl. The same idea could be used to make lights around a mirror for your grand daughter....



LED Micro Drop Lights

Here are what the LED lights and battery box look like. Various colours are available.



Typical specifications:

4.5V (The battery box shown takes three AA cells)

Between 20 and 30 lights per string

Lights spaced approximately 50mm apart

Sourcing the lights

It is unknown if there is regular a supplier of these in New Zealand, but you could try shops which sell Christmas decorations or party supplies. It's possible they are only imported occasionally or available only at certain times of the year.

However, searching on the internet revealed a number of suppliers in the United States. Try any one of these for on-line ordering:

<http://www.save-on-crafts.com>

<http://litesource.com/led-lights/battery-operated-led-lights/battery-operated-micro-drop-lights.html>

<http://www.christmas-light-source.com>

