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Create Mesmerising Decorations with EL Wire by [Ewan Fisher](#)

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Electroluminescent wire, commonly known as EL wire, is great for customising and decorating a number of different objects. Various structures, vehicles and even clothing can use EL wire to build an illumination that will be visually striking.

Besides this, different accessories are available to use in tandem with EL wire, including Arduino shields.

For engineers working on prototypes, gadget enthusiasts and hobbyists, EL wire is a flexible and creative way of making your installation fun and imaginative.

Structure and Properties of EL Wire

EL wire has a copper core with a phosphor coating. Another wire functioning on an alternating current covers that to stimulate, or "excite" if you will apply current to the phosphor and subsequently create the coloured glow.

Additional fluorescent organic dye is used in the clear PVC sleeve that houses the aforementioned items to produce an exciting array of colours.

The resulting neon glow that appears when the correct voltage is applied makes for a visually appealing display, one that can be tailored to suit your requirements.

Combined with the variety of different cables, connectors and adaptors available from the best electronics stockists, utilising EL wire can really make a difference to your project.

What Can You Do With EL Wire?

As already hinted at, with regards to EL wire the only real limits on what you can do with it are those imposed by your own creative mind.

EL inverters drive the EL wire and you can use batteries quite easily to power the whole installation. An EL sequencer is the control board where you can programme the effects you wish to create, such as blinking lights.

But what can you actually use it for? EL wire is especially popular with hobbyists and artists because of the fun you can have with it.

For example, the "cool neon" effect is bright and eye-catching, making it great for costumes where you really want to stand out from the crowd at a party!

Electronics sites and blogs are full of interesting ideas that some people have already tried out with EL wire, such as the "heartbeat straight jacket". This was a project by an American student whereby they used EL wire to give off the effect of a beating heart underneath a customised doctor's jacket!

Other uses already alluded to include fixing neon lighting to your car or for dressing up sculptures, such as the 40ft "Burning Man" that was wrapped in impressive glowing EL wire at the Twelfth Annual Burning Man Festival in Nevada, USA.

Start creating your own EL wire installations today by browsing quality online electronic stockists to find all the equipment you need to get started.

The wire comes in a variety of different lengths while the inverters and sequencers you need to power and programme your EL wire display are also readily available.

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Proto-PIC is the best option for electronics enthusiasts when it comes to purchasing electronic components like a [EL Wire](#). Their range is cost-effective.

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