

Salt n' Peanut



The story

Salt n' Peanut were inspired by the exuberant display of love in elephant society between a mother and it's calf. In elephant social customs, the mother and its calf always remain in constant touch.

When the trunk of Salt (the mother elephant) and the trunk of Peanut (the baby elephant) connect, the LED in Peanut's chest illuminates, signifying love and joy.

How it works

Salt n' Peanut are created using a simple LED soft circuit.

Unlike traditional wiring, soft circuits substitute conductive thread for wire. Similar to wire, conductive thread is capable of carrying electricity.

Salt acts as the power source to illuminate Peanut's LED. When in contact (trunks touching) the LED is on. When apart, the LED is off.

What you'll need:

Included in kit:

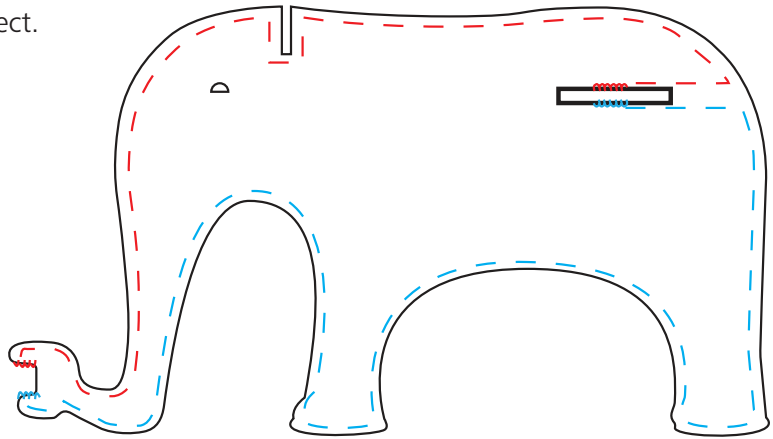
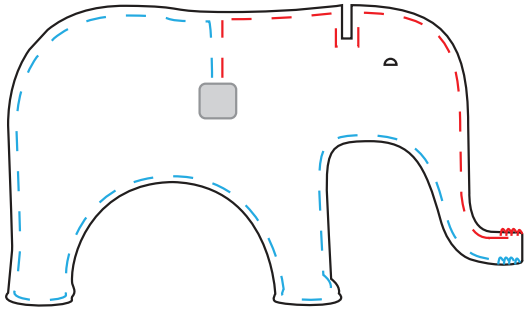
- 2 wool felt elephants
- 2 wooden ears
- 3 yds of conductive thread
- 1 LED
- 1 bead
- 1 coin cell battery

Tools (not included in kit):

- Sewing needle
- Needle nose pliers
- Scissors
- Marker
- Hot glue gun (optional)

Salt n' Peanut Sewing Guide

Below is a suggested sewing guide for your project.



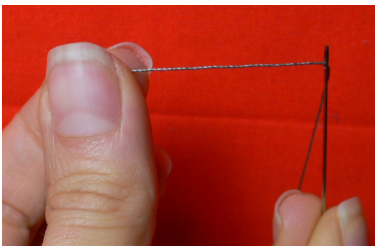
— — Positive Path

— — Negative Path

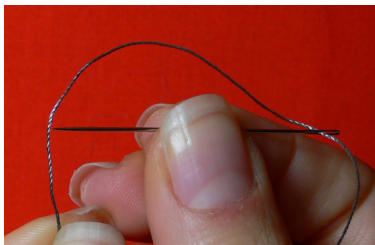
Note: The negative and positive sew paths must NOT intersect at any point.

Tip: If you don't want the thread visible on the front side of the elephants, you can always sew the circuit on the back side.

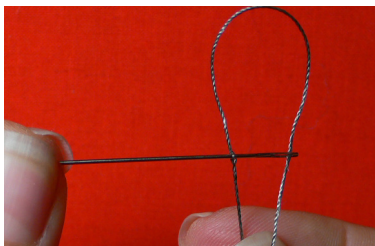
Bookbinder's Knot



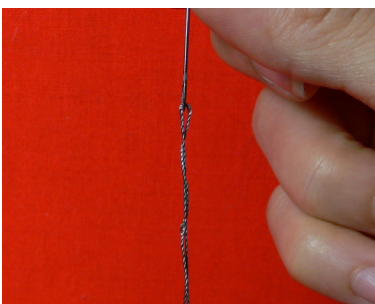
Step One:
Pull the 3-4" of the thread through the eye of the needle.



Step Two:
Pierce the needle through the fibers of the thread.



Step Three:
Using your thumb and forefinger, pull the pierced thread toward the eye of the needle.



Step Four:
Pull the other end of the thread until the knot is secure. Knot the bottom of the thread.

LED Primer

Before you begin crafting soft circuits, there are a few things you need to know about LEDs (Light Emitting Diodes). LEDs are tiny lights that emit a bright light while consuming very little power. The reason they're so cool is that you can run them off of small batteries.

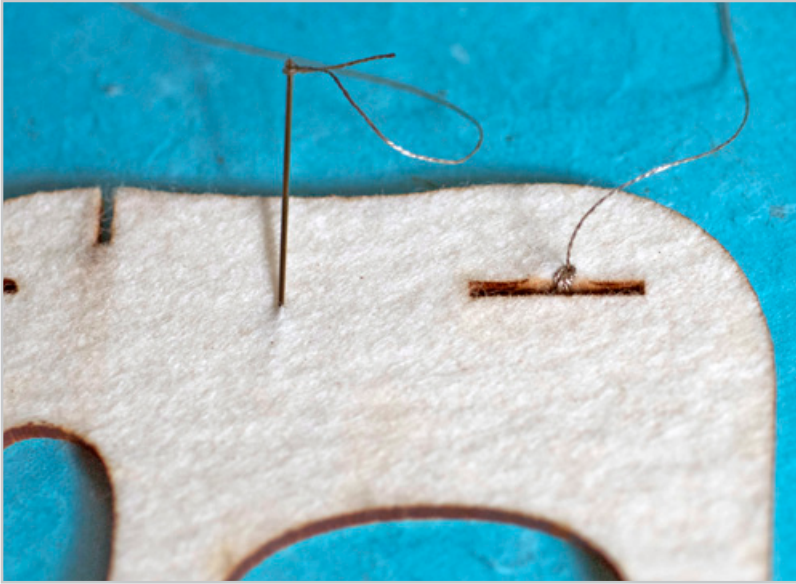
A typical LED has two leads (legs) one shorter than the other. Just like batteries, LEDs have a positive and negative side (or lead). The shorter lead is typically the negative while the longer lead is the positive.

In order for the LED to light up, the positive lead must be connected to the positive side of the battery while the negative lead to the negative side of the battery. If you reverse it, it simply won't work.

Grab your 3V lithium battery and try it out. Touch the longer LED lead to the positive side of the battery and shorter to the negative side of your battery. Your LED should light up! It's really that simple.

Now that you know how a simple LED circuit works, let's start crafting.

Part One: Sewing the Power Circuit



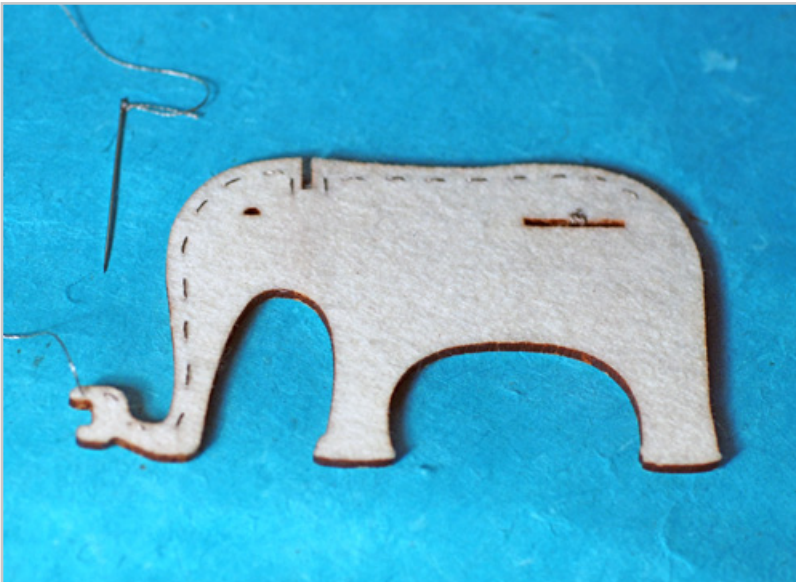
Step one

Cut a 2.5 ft piece of conductive thread.

Thread the needle using the bookbinder's knot technique.

Begin the circuit by looping the thread several times around the top battery slit to create a good contact point for the battery.

This will be the positive battery contact.



Step two

Continuing sewing the path along the edge of the elephant to the upper lip of its trunk.

Note: Sew the positive path close to the edge of the elephant's upper trunk, leaving enough room to sew the negative path along the lower trunk. You do not want the positive and negative paths to intersect.

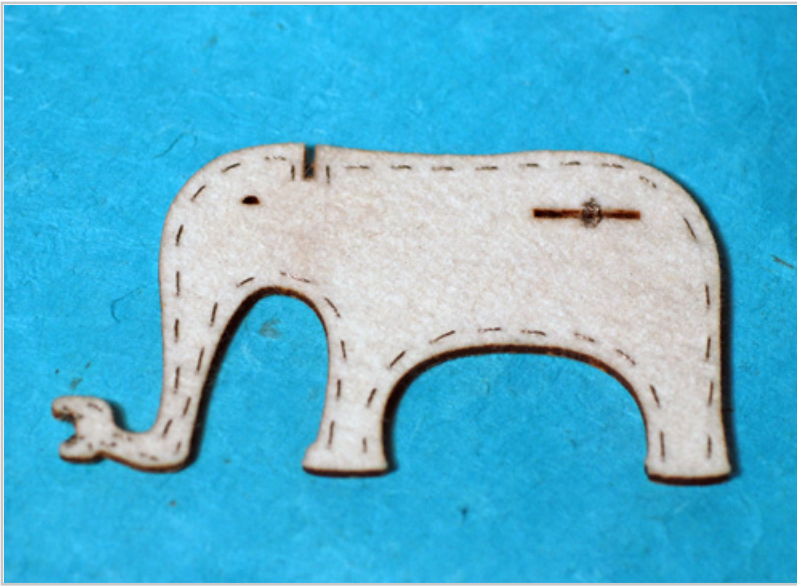


Step three

Finish the positive path by looping the thread several times around the upper lip.

Neatly knot and cut the conductive thread.

Part One: Sewing the Power Circuit



Note: The negative and positive sew paths must NOT intersect at any point to prevent your battery from shorting.

Step four

Cut a 3 ft piece of conductive thread and thread the needle.

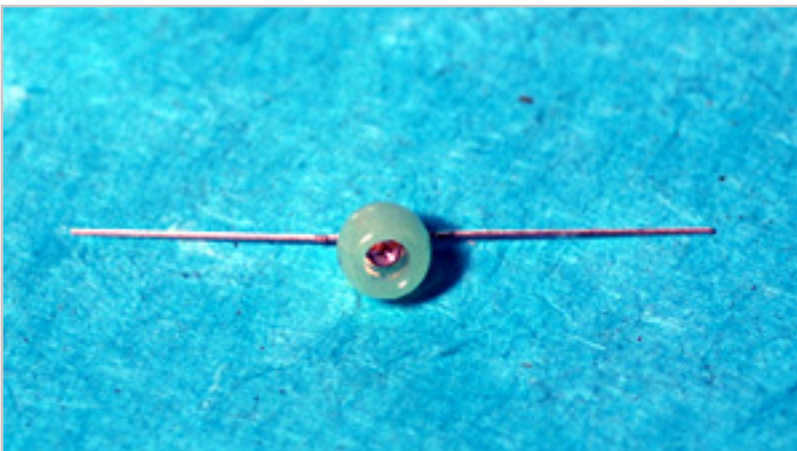
Loop the thread several times around the bottom battery slit to create a negative contact point for the battery.

Continuing sewing the path along the edge of the elephant to the lower lip of the trunk.

Finish the negative path by looping the thread several times around the lower lip.

Neatly knot and cut the conductive thread.

Part Two: Sewing the LED Circuit



Step one

Slip the bulb of the LED inside the bead.

Mark the negative LED lead (the shorter one) with a marker to help distinguish the negative lead from the positive.

Using needle nose pliers, gently bend the leads of the LED in opposite directions.

Note: You can use a dab of hot glue to secure the bead onto the LED.

Step two

Using needle nose pliers, curl the negative LED lead into a loop. This will make it easier for you to sew the LED onto the felt.

Repeat for the positive lead.

Position the bead and LED inside the cutout with the positive lead facing the front of the elephant.



Part Two: Sewing the LED Circuit



Step three

Cut a 1.5 ft piece of conductive thread and thread the needle.

Securely sew the positive lead to the felt, looping the thread around the lead several times.

Continue to sew a path to the top of the elephant's trunk, looping the thread several times to create a good contact point.

Neatly knot and cut the conductive thread.



Step four

Thread the needle using the remaining 2 ft of conductive thread.

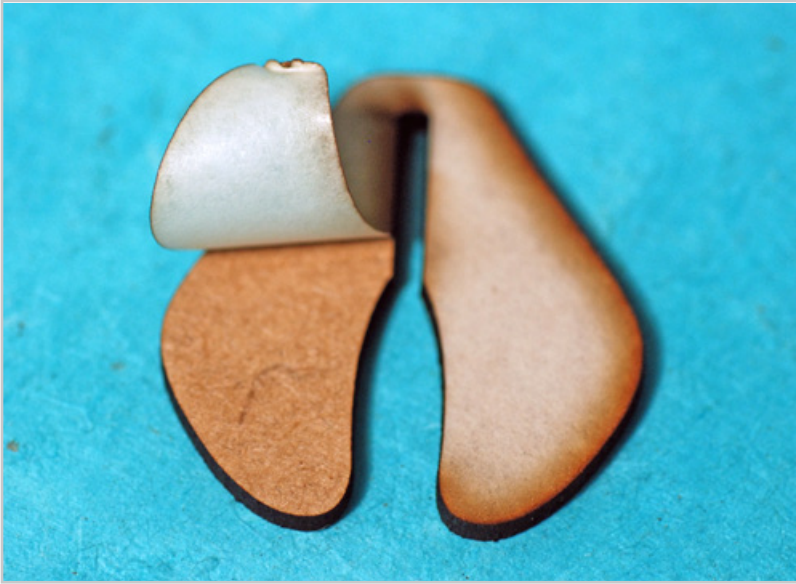
Securely sew the negative lead to the felt.

Continue to sew a path to the bottom of the elephant's trunk, looping the thread several times along the bottom edge to create a good contact point.

Neatly knot and cut the conductive thread.



Part Three: Final Assembly



Step one

Remove the film from the wooden ears and slip the ears accordingly into the notch on each elephant.



Step two

Slip the battery into the battery slit with the positive side of the battery facing up (connecting to the positive contact).



Step three

Connect the trunk of the baby elephant Peanut with the trunk of the mother elephant Salt. The LED should light up!