

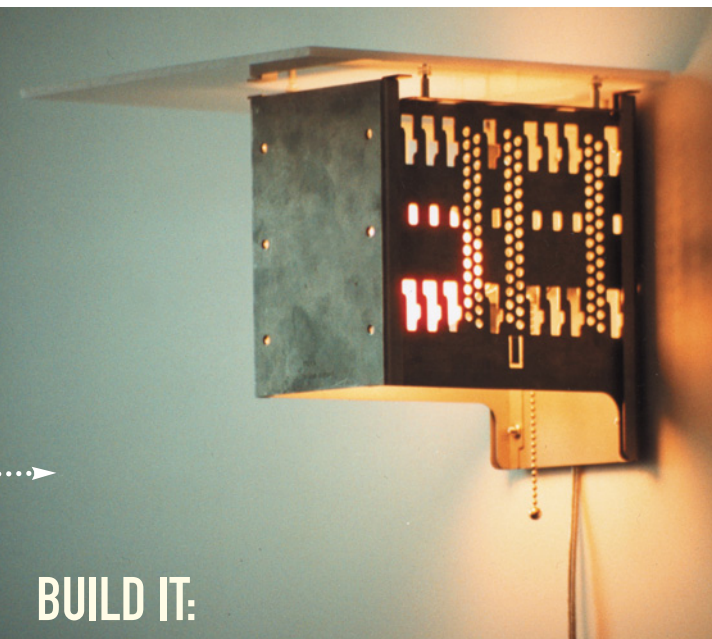
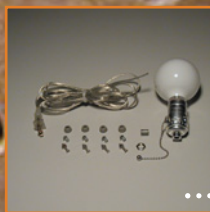
RE

WIRE

# O.K. COMPUTER LAMP

by Steve Dodds

Sometimes scavenged materials lend themselves to a new use so well, you almost forget they had a former life. This holds true for the metal frame I found on a pile of discarded computer parts while walking home from work one day. Its proportions, perforations, and mounting holes spelled lamp to me, not drive bay for a motherboard. And unlike your new computer, that will be landfill within a year or two, this Lite-Brite-like fixture is a keeper.



## 3 TOOLS: DRIVE BAY LAMP

### Tools:

Electric drill

Assortment of drill bits

Adjustable wrench

Screwdrivers to fit each type of screw

Pencil

Square

Small round file

## 3 INGREDIENTS: DRIVE BAY LAMP

1 Computer drive bay

1 1/4" x 11" x 11" Piece Plexiglas

4 1/2" gray rubber bumpers

4 1/2" oval head machine screws  
(head must fit into bumpers)

4 Nuts to fit oval head machine screws

4 1" flat head machine screws

(size to fit threaded inserts on drive bay)

4 Nuts to fit flat head machine screws

1 Pull-chain light socket

1 1/2" threaded lamp nipple

1 Lamp nut

1 Length of lamp cord

1 Plug

1 40-watt light bulb

1 Plastic wall anchors

1 Screws to fit anchors

anchors that require a 1/4" hole in the wall and accommodate #10 screw drill size will suffice.

1 Frosty beverage of your choosing

## BUILD IT:

1. Stumble across a drive bay or other sheet-metal frame, strip it of its parts, and clean it thoroughly.
2. Look in the yellow pages and find a store that sells plastics. Paw through their scrap bin to get the Plexiglas. The 1/4" opalescent acrylic casts a nice light. Find a size that fits the salvaged frame you're using.
3. Bring the frame to the hardware store and get the remaining hardware, making sure the screws fit through the holes and studs in the frame.
4. On the back of the frame, mark a location for the center of the light socket and a spot above and below it for screws to attach the frame to the wall.
5. At the light socket location, drill a hole large enough to accommodate the lamp nipple. Do this incrementally: Start with a small bit and drill the hole larger and larger. Otherwise you'll be at it all night. File off any burrs.
6. Drill the two holes in the frame for the mounting screws. File off any burrs. If you want to spray-paint it, now is the time.
7. On the protective paper covering the Plexiglas, lay out locations for holes that correspond to the threaded studs on the top of the frame. Make sure that the Plexiglas doesn't extend past the back of the frame.
8. Begin drilling the holes with a large bit to countersink the flat head screws, but be careful not to drill all the way through. Finish by drilling the rest of each hole to fit the shank of the screw. Peel off the protective paper.
9. Now you're ready to put it all together. Thread the lamp nut onto the nipple, poke it through the hole, and thread the bottom of the socket on the other side.
10. Pass the lamp cord through the nipple, wire the socket, and assemble it. Put the plug on the other end of the cord if it didn't come with one.
11. Using the short screws, attach the rubber bumpers to the back of the frame.
12. Open a frosty beverage and scout for a location to mount this thing.
13. Install the wall anchors and hang the lamp. The bumpers should hold the lamp far enough away from the wall to allow the cord to turn and run down the back of the frame.
14. Screw the Plexiglas into the threaded studs on top of the frame. Place a nut on the screw between the Plexiglas and the stud to act as an additional spacer.
15. Screw in a bulb. Plug it in. Turn it on and finish your frosty beverage. Don't forget to recycle.