

Monster flasher

Andrew Stewart of Gumdale Queensland has a little monster which sits on the dashboard of his car and flashes its eyes (LEDs) with the indicator and brake lights. Now many of his friends want a 'flashing eyed' monster. He sent us a copy of his most advanced unit.

As the ignition system in a car is often noisy D1 is needed to isolate the 470uF capacitor from the 12 V supply.

IC1 555 gives a time delay of over a minute and when it finishes counting it sends a pulse to IC2 555. The output of IC2 then goes high for approximately 4-5 seconds. This, in turn, causes IC3 to oscillate and the monster's eyes blink.

The 1k resistor brings the duty cycle close to 50%. The 100 uF capacitor on the output of IC3 makes the eyes look as if they are fading in and out.

The monster I used for mounting the LEDs in was a cheap plastic lizard. The ICs can be mounted on Vero board and placed inside a matchbox up under the dashboard.

