

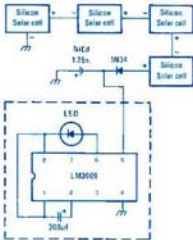
10 LED flasher

Here's an unusual LED flasher that uses sunlight to charge its battery—just like the system used in space satellites. The basic flasher uses the LM3909 integrated circuit. The 3909 contains all of the required circuitry except for the LED itself and a timing capacitor.

During the day, the sun hits the solar panel's cells, charging the NiCad battery. At night, the battery provides the power to flash as many as 15 LM3909 LED flashers.

If you'd prefer to run the show from an ordinary battery, a single AA penlight battery can power one LM3909 flasher for three months while a D battery will run it for well over one year. Adding more flasher units will shorten the battery life, but a single number six dry cell should power a dozen flashers for well over a year.

Since the circuit consists of just a single IC and capacitor, you can mount as many as you want on a



NOTE:

Duplicate "board in" circuit for each additional flashing LED device. Bored is part (3909, LED, 100µF) costs approximately six dollars.

small perfboard. Then, just string some fine-gauge wire to your LEDs, which can be arranged in any artistic manner you'd like.