

Using Model Lights



Using model lights is a very easy and simple, but does require a small amount of very simple knowledge. When you are buying them the most important thing to note is the voltage (sometimes called potential difference) of your lights, as not getting this right, as with any household appliance (the US uses half the voltage of Europe for example) can result in malfunctions.

The voltage of the lights needs to be matched with the voltage of power supply, but does not necessarily need to be exactly the same if you wire them correctly. If you have very limited technical ability and do not know how to wire lights together in series though it is probably best to stick to buying only those lights that are of the same voltage as your power supply.

Most of us learnt a few basics at school about using low voltage, low current lights like these and so can go a little further in voltage matching. If you have 6 volt lights and would like to use them from a 12 volt power supply you can achieve this by wiring two 6 volt lights in series. This means taking the minus wire from one lamp and joining it to the plus wire of the other lamp, BUT not connecting the two joined wires to the supply. Then you take the two wires that have not been joined together and connect their positive and negative wires to your power supply. By doing this the 12 volt supply is divided into two potential differences of 6 volts across each light.

If you have any problem or doubt about your ability to do this or to use low voltage battery level power supplies then you should not buy or use these lamps.