



**DIY LANTERNS**  
Next blackout, light the house with bright LED lamps.

**CHEAP TRICKS**

# LED CANDLES

Build a bunch of these simple torches for up to 36 hours of emergency—or romantic—lighting

## LIGHT UP YOUR LIFE

15 MINUTES

\$3.33

EASY ■■■■ HARD

- Two resistors, one 100-ohm and one 220-ohm: **19¢ each**
- 9v battery clip: **45¢**

- Two white 10mm, 18,000mcd LEDs: **75¢ each**
- 9v battery: **\$1**
- Wire connectors (optional): **15¢**

### PARTS AND CONNECTIONS



### 1. PROCURE

You can get the resistors at RadioShack, but you have to go online for the super-bright LEDs. I ordered mine, along with the battery clips and wire connectors, from [alan-parekh.vstore.ca](http://alan-parekh.vstore.ca).

### 2. CONNECT

I attached the bits with white rubber sleeves known as wire connectors. Soldering makes a neater package, but the heat can ruin the LEDs if you're not careful. If you do solder, trim the leads first. Then attach:

- A.** One end of the **resistors** to the positive lead of the **battery clip**, the other end to the positive lead of the first **LED**
- B.** The negative lead of the first LED to the positive lead of the second LED
- C.** The negative lead of the second LED to the negative lead of the battery clip

### 3. FINISH

Wrap the assembly with a small strip of duct or electrical tape to hold it all together. Attach one end of the battery clip to the battery. Plug in the other end to turn on the lamp. Build a dozen more, and crank up the Barry White.

—PAUL WALLICH

## 5 THINGS...

### TO DO BEFORE YOUR SUMMER ROAD TRIP

#### 1 COMPARE COSTS

Visit AAA's [FuelCostCalculator.com](http://FuelCostCalculator.com) to find daily updates on regional gas prices, and see if driving is the cheapest way to go. Scary total? Check [Cfares.com](http://Cfares.com) for wholesale airfares that are as much as 20 percent lower than the flights listed on other travel search engines.

#### 2 FILL UP CHEAP

If you do drive, sites like [GasPriceWatch.com](http://GasPriceWatch.com) and [GasBuddy.com](http://GasBuddy.com) can point you to the cheapest pump in your area. Or try Telenav's new Fuel Finder cellphone application, available on some Sprint, Nextel, Boost Mobile and BlackBerry phones for \$10 or less a month, for turn-by-turn directions to a fuel bargain near you.

#### 3 FIND SPEED TRAPS

Enjoy a ticket-free trip by consulting [BearTraps.com](http://BearTraps.com), which catalogues the interstate highway spots most likely to have a radar gun in hiding. Deviating from major roads? [SpeedTrap.org](http://SpeedTrap.org) lists police-car haunts by county and state.

#### 4 PLAN YOUR CHOW

When you just can't take another Cracker Barrel, go to [Roadfood.com](http://Roadfood.com) for reviews and photos of more than 1,000 roadside eateries across the country. You can even search for vittles by category—including barbecue joints, clam shacks and sandwich shops—or by food item.

#### 5 STOP HOLDING IT

Track down the nearest latrine with Vindigo City Guide, a downloadable cellphone app that uses your location to steer you to nearby points of interest, like restaurants, bars and public restrooms. It costs \$3.50 a month or less, depending on your carrier. Get it from [vindigo.com](http://vindigo.com). —KATE ASHFORD