



Battery



Salt water battery



Having shown with multimeter that we could get about half a volt from the cell, we made a battery of 8 of them to try to power an LED. Naturally once that worked it we tried something a little more

taxing.

Impressively it managed to power both the LEDs and the PIC microcontroller. Though whether this says more about the microcontroller than our battery I don't know!

Brief Notes on making the battery:

Cut and strip lots of tiny lengths of wire.

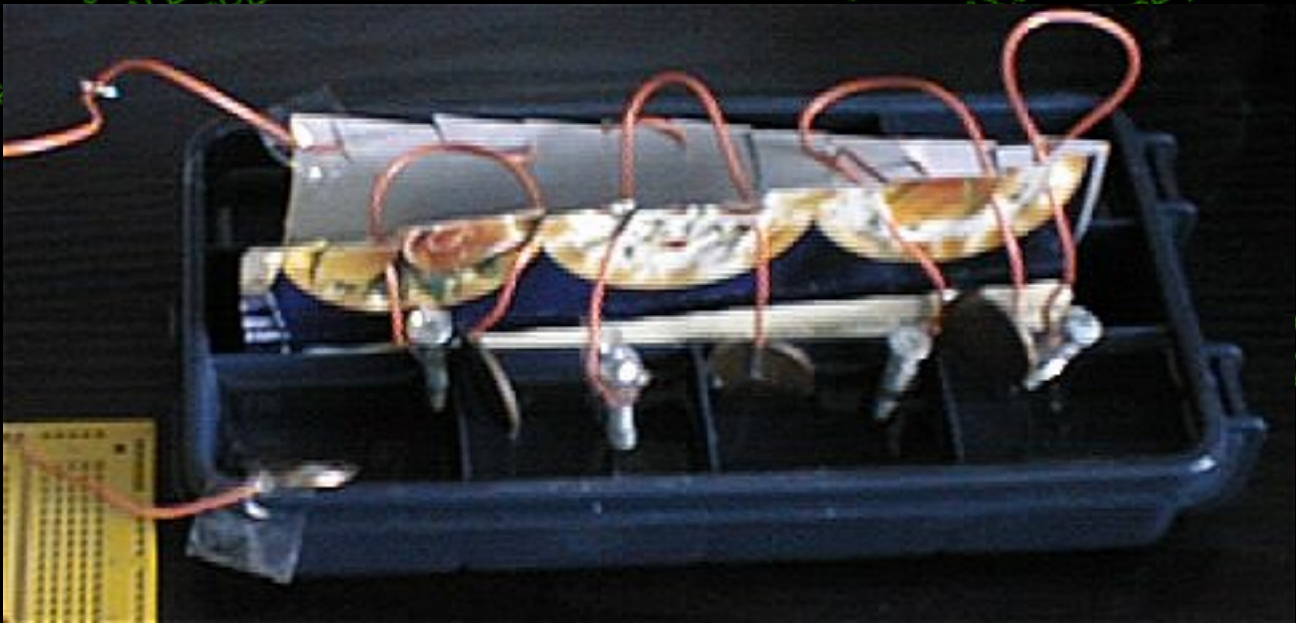
Attach a zinc plated screw to one end, and tape a penny to the other (for all the wires you have).



Get a screw organiser box (or something with lots of small compartments) and fill with salt water.

Finally connect all the compartments one by one so that each has a wire and penny going in, and a screw and wire going out (in a chain). Support the wires, (I used cardboard with scissors cuts) so that the connecting wires in each cell are not touching the water.

The battery combines a load of cells thus it can produce a serviceable voltage. Try varying the materials used for anodes/cathodes (and perhaps think about another electrolyte too) - for greater potential difference and longevity. As I remember zinc and brass stuck in a lemon (or potato) also works - and is perhaps a little less messy.



A page from [James David Chapman's website](http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~jchap/).

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[Back](#) [Previous](#) [Next](#) [Contents](#)

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