

Commercial Flicker Products

There is both art and science behind making your own [flickering lights](#). But if you need something reliable now, you should consider a commercial solution...

Please read our disclaimers as to the [timeliness](#) and [origin](#) of this information.

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Fake candles and flame tips

- Candle Lite Unlimited

Candle Lite Unlimited sells an artificial candle designed by David Johnson. It has three lamps in a clear plastic "flame", driven by digital logic: the bottom one flashing slowly; the middle one faster; and the top one fastest.

I don't know of a web site for Candle Lite Unlimited itself, but their products can be had from "http://www.citytheatrical.com/ga_1_info.htm". Price is \$40-\$69, depending on options.

- SRK Consulting

SRK Consulting sells complete electronic candles for \$30. \$25 for a "flame" and circuit, or \$12 for just the "flame". The "flame" is made up of three bright incandescent lamps embedded in a flame-shaped blob of silicone rubber, tinted yellow/orange. [The pictures on his web site look a bit too orange for my taste.] A

newer version uses high-intensity LEDs. The whole thing runs on a 9-Volt battery.

Web site: "<http://www.srkconsulting.com/candles.html>".

- NorexBuyDirect.Com

This outfit sells two different kinds of electronic candles. They all seem to use LEDs for the light source.

Votive lights (SmartLite™) run on internal NiCd batteries. They run 30 hours per charge. Their smallest kit is \$31, which includes one candle and charger. They are geared up to sell larger sets with lots of electronic votives, presumably to churches.

Tall taper candles (Candlites™) burn for 30 hours on 2 AAA batteries. They cost \$18-\$38, depending on length. The candle bodies come in colors, too.

Web site: "<http://www.norexbuydirect.com>".

- Lighting Technology (lighting-tech.com)

The data sheet on this web site depicts numerous interesting electronic candles, installed in various holders. They even show an old-fashioned kerosene lantern.

I couldn't find any pricing information.

Web site: "<http://www.lighting-tech.com/datasheet/Candles.pdf>".

- Tony Bechtel (flickertip@juno.com)

Tony Bechtel makes artificial candle flames with hand-molded light tips. He describes the circuitry as a "simple 555 chip design." They come in three different flicker rates, so that when used in groups, you won't see the patterns echoing each other or strobing together.

The basic unit is a simple flame tip with circuitry. It runs on 9-14VDC, and will run for 2 hours on a single 9V battery. Cost is \$25.

A complete artificial candle runs \$39.

- <http://www.nightmarefactory.com/effects.html> #IA119 - \$60

Electric flicker candle. Realistic non-flame candles, complete with dripped wax.

- <http://www.nightmarefactory.com/effects.html> #IA122 - \$9

Described as:

BATTERY OPERATED CANDLES
Set of 2, white 9" high candles.
Uses AA size batteries (not included)

Doesn't seem to promise flicker.

- Copy Candle

I saw some of these in a store (either Wal-Mart or Target) in autumn 2003.
They looked like large "pillar" candles, some plain and others decorated with printed designs.

This advertisement is from the box of another product, made by the same folks.

- [bettyschristmashouse.com](http://www.bettyschristmashouse.com)

<http://www.bettyschristmashouse.com> has a number of decorative Christmas candle lights. In July of 2004, I noticed that they carry flickering fake candles.

The web site describes them as follows:

White, Red, and Green
Battery Operated Candles
LED Flicker bulb
6 inches high and 3 inches wide
Uses two AA batteries
List Price \$9.95, Your Price \$7.95

- Ghost Ride Productions

[Ghost Ride Productions](#) offers real wax candles with a battery-powered flickering flame.

Runs on two 'AA' batteries for 10 to 14 hours. The incandescent flicker bulb is "replaceable". Two settings control flicker effect brightness and speed. Several pillar candle sizes are offered. \$25 [August 2004]

Also available are candles with 6" wire leads to allow use of a constant power source. Candles require 3VDC 160 milliamp power. \$25 [August 2004]

Ghost Ride also offers an adaptor (3VDC 2A) that can power up to 16 candles.

- The Electric Candle Company

The Electric Candle Company (<http://www.electric-candle.com>) offers an electric "flame" that moves. They call it "Feeling's Flame®" electric candle.

The basic unit is a "pendulum flame" in a plastic sleeve that resembles a candle. \$25 [August 2004] It runs on 110VAC and has a screw-in lamp base, candelabra-size.

No flashing or electronic flickering is involved. The entire flame lamp stays lit all the time, but it randomly moves. The following specifications are provided:

Length of Pendulum Flame 45 millimeters

Diameter of Pendulum Flame 13 millimeters

Length of Included Candle Cover 150 millimeters

Diameter of Included Candle Cover 21 millimeters

Storage Temperature -58° to 194° Fahrenheit

Life Expectancy Of Bulb 2,000 to 3,000 continuous hours

Energy Used 3 watts

Light Produced Per Bulb Equivalent to one (1) candle

They also sell wax sleeves that slip over the basic mechanism and make it look more like a candle. The more fancy wax sleeves feature wax drippings.

Projecting flickering light

- ADJ H2O

The [ADJ H2O](#) unit projects light through a pair of rotating glass disks. Pictures of the innards are under the discussion of [hammered glass](#).

The unit is available for sale at most stores that carry lighting and DJ equipment.

- Rosco Gobo Rotator

Rosco gobo rotator has been mentioned in discussion of general [gobo rotators](#). It is a commercial product.

The unit is available for sale at most stores that carry stage lighting equipment.

- Rosco Animation Effects System

The Rosco Animation Effects System has been mentioned in the context of [effects wheels](#). It is a commercial product.

The unit is available for sale at most stores that carry stage lighting equipment.

- GAM Film/FX

The GAM Film/FX has been mentioned in the context of [scrolling strips](#). It is a commercial product.

The unit is available for sale at most stores that carry stage lighting equipment.

Manufacturer web site: "<http://www.gamonline.com>".

Electronic flicker circuits

- [Haunt Master Products](#) Battery Lamp Flickerer (BLF) - \$16.95 [7/2004]
 - Battery-powered flicker circuit drives up to a total of 3A (with added heatsink) of 5 to 12 volt lamps. Without heat sink, max. current is 0.5 A.
 - The circuit appears to connect all lamps to a single output, which is driven by the combined signals of three square-wave oscillators.
 - Runs on 5 to 12 VDC.
- [Haunt Master Products](#) Fright Lite-500 - \$ 33.95

Plug up to 500 Watts of 110 VAC incandescent lamp into this box to make it flicker and act strange.

- [Haunt Master Products](#) Fright Lite Plus - \$ 64.95

Plug up to 1000 Watts of 110 VAC incandescent lamp into this box to make it flicker and act strange. In addition to the standard Frite Light effect, there are five other selectable effects.

- [Haunt Master Products](#) Incandescent Candle Flickerer (ICF) - \$ 24.95 [6/2004]

Line-powered flicker circuit drives up to a total of 600W of lights.

Includes a brightness control.

- [Scream In The Dark](#) Light Flicker Controller - \$11.00

This control box plugs into a regular 110 VAC outlet and uses a fluorescent starter to drive incandescent lights (50W maximum), for a simulated flame effect.

Unit includes a single electric candle (C7 type 5W bulb).

- GAM Flickermaster SPE-6

This unit is described as follows:

SPE-6 will create realistic flicker effects that range from the flickering light of a movie or TV screen, candle light or gas light, to roaring flames and more. You can choose between random flicker and strobe. The new Flickermaster features a built-in dimmer with filtering to minimize interference with sound and other electronic equipment on the set. The rugged case has the control panel and knobs recessed for protection when you are toting the unit from job to job.

Rugged construction, improved cooling and expanded capability make the SPE-6 the best ever version of this GAM classic special effects winner. Available in 120 and 220V units, the Flickermaster can handle a 2000W incandescent load, and will create the most realistic fire effects that you have ever seen. With a minimum of effort you can make the magic happen! Fuse and input-output are on recessed back of case. Convenient carry handle. Specify 120V or 220V when ordering.

Price \$685.00

Web site: "<http://www.gamonline.com/catalog/flickermaster>".

Silk flame units

In the space of about a year, silk flames went from rarities to something you can occasionally find on closeout at [Pic-N-Save](#) [April 2002].

Rather than attempt to list specific models, a neverending task, I'll just point you to some of the larger manufacturers.

Inexpensive (under \$100):

- [American DJ](#) - Torch Light
- [Antari](#) - Diablo Flame Machine
- [VEI](#) - Vulcan's Fire
- [Chauvet](#) - "Bob"

Fancy:

- [Le Maitre](#) - Le Flame
- www.european-events.co.uk/flames.htm - a huge assortment of fake flames, some for rent; some for sale
- http://www.10outof10.co.uk/acatalog/10_out_of_10_On_Line_Silk_Flame_Effects_80.html - a huge assortment of fake flames for sale