

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 01, 2005

## Keith's Resin Parts Arrive

Keith Henry's excellent resin parts arrived. First and foremost, the radar eye (shown with Azman's lens), along with another set of ankle cylinders and wedges, and the ankle details. Thanks, Keith!



*posted by Victor Franco at 8:59 PM* 0 COMMENTS

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 03, 2005

## Cut Cylinder Holders

Today I built of the easier parts to construct, the ankle cylinder holders, which look like little wedges underneath the ankle cylinders. Not even picture-worthy.

Also picked up some replacement gas pipe at Lowe's. The good news is that the 3/4" pipe fits cleanly into the 1" pipe. The bad news is there was an elbow joint stuck on the 1" pipe, and since it's the only one that made a good fit, I had to buy it like that (and pay about two bucks for the elbow) and now I have to figure out how to get it off!

*posted by Victor Franco at 8:40 PM* 0 COMMENTS

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 04, 2005

## Putty, Sanding Legs

Worked DAP Plastic Wood into leg grooves and little holes in the plywood, and gave the legs a sanding after it dried.

*posted by Victor Franco at 9:34 PM* 0 COMMENTS

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2005

## Leg Grooves, Cut Tapease Cylinder

After several days of sanding and puttying the legs to get them smooth, I cut grooves into the legs where they belong. Well, almost where they belong. They don't all align perfectly, so I am going to fill at least one groove back in with putty and try again to get them to align.

I also practiced cutting the Tapease cylinder. My technique and results show more practice is needed. All in all a pretty disappointing day, as my results fell far short of the goal.



The LED kit arrived from Carl's Electronics. I had ordered three kits.



*posted by Victor Franco at 11:17 PM* 0 COMMENTS

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SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2005

## Recut groove

After somewhat botching the alignment of one of the grooves on the left leg yesterday (and subsequently filling the groove in with putty), I recut the groove to better align with the adjoining edges.

I also bought a soldering iron, solder, battery case, breadboard, 555 timer and wire at Radio Shack.

*posted by Victor Franco at 5:08 PM* 0 COMMENTS

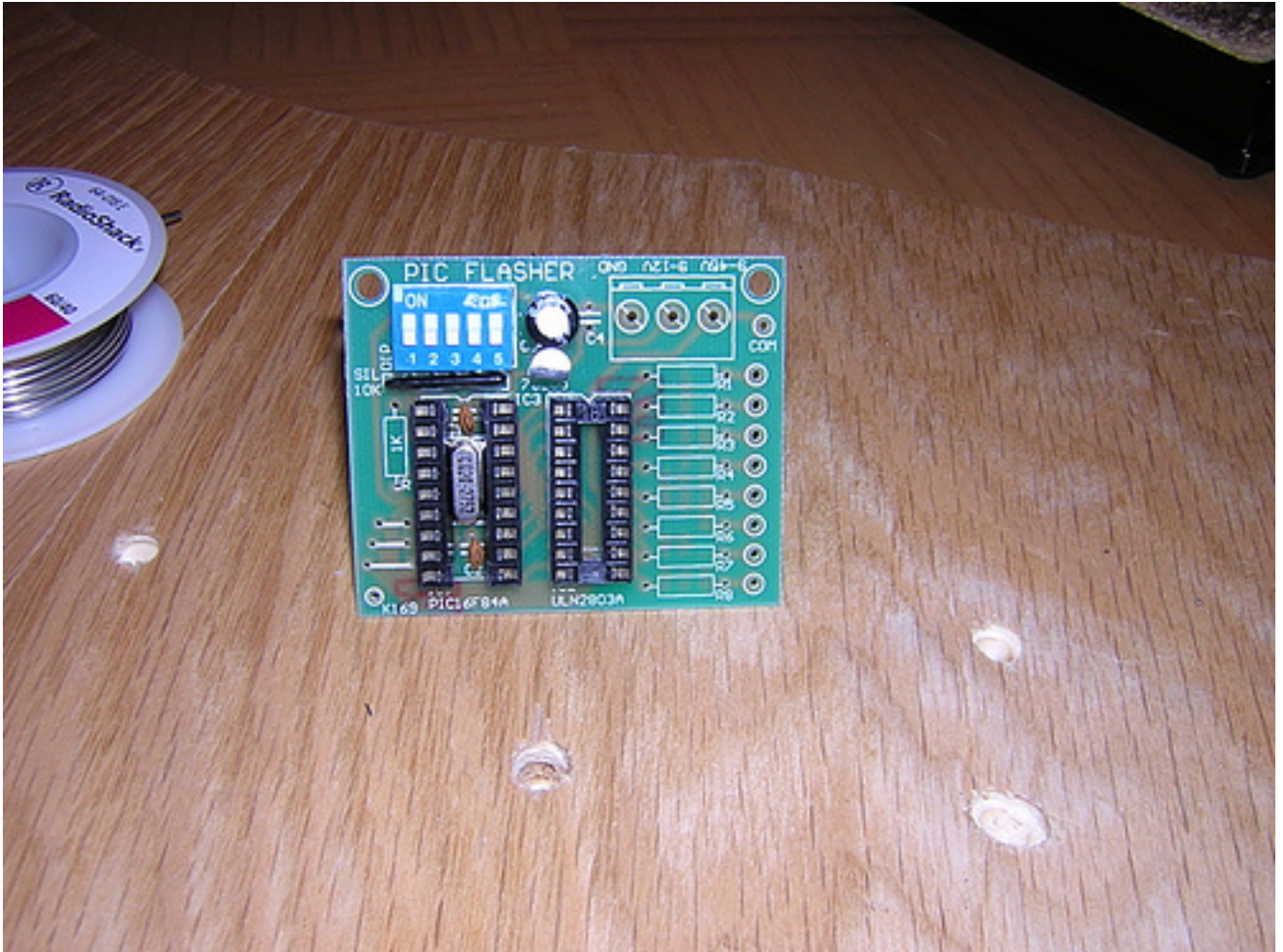
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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2005

## Started Prototyping LEDs

Today I dusted off what little soldering experience I have, and started soldering my PIC flasher circuit that I ordered from Carl's Electronics. Soldering was a bit sloppy, but I think I haven't shorted any leads yet. I had to stop when I found that the package swapped 8 of one resistor type with what should have been 1 of another. I have two more kits to work with, but this was a good stopping point anyway.

I also picked up a soldering iron stand and desolder bulb at Radio Shack.

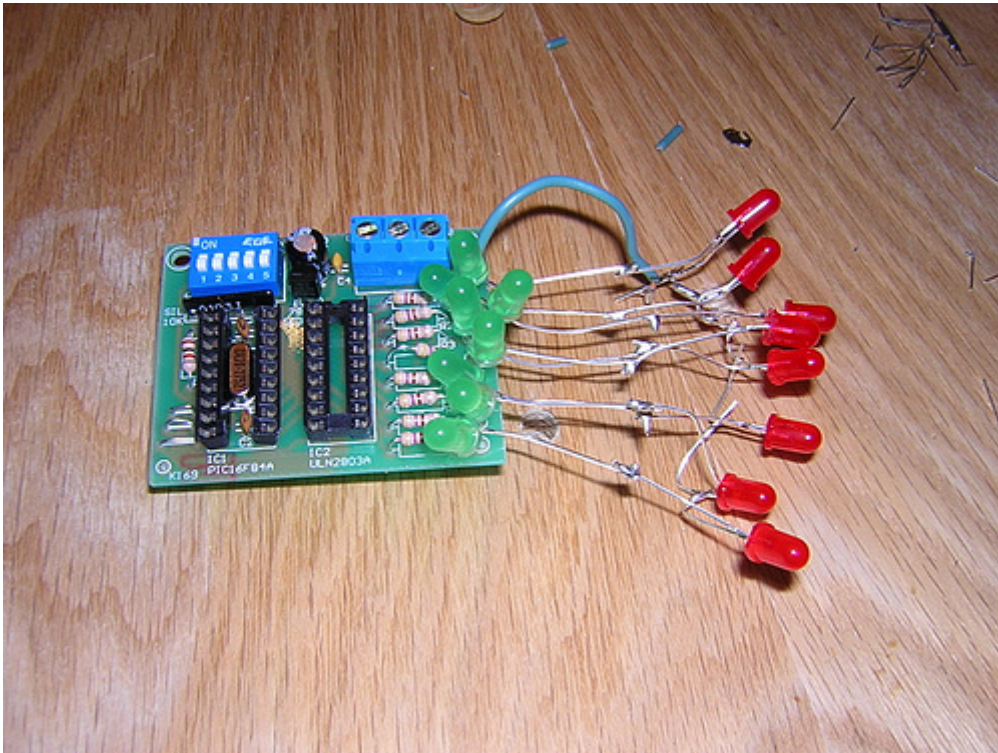


*posted by Victor Franco at 11:05 PM* 0 COMMENTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2005

## Finished Soldering Prototype LEDs

The good news: I finished soldering up the PIC flasher kit. The bad news: Nothing blinks. I have absolutely no idea what's wrong. More than likely I have one or more bad solder points. I've tried powering the thing with a single 9v battery and also four D cells in series, no luck. Very discouraging, and right now it looks like six hours and twenty bucks down the drain. (I know, the picture below shows two empty IC sockets, but they have since been populated correctly.)



*posted by Victor Franco at 10:12 PM* 0 COMMENTS

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2005

## Lights Are Blinking!

Hooray! I started touching a multimeter to the power connectors, and found a bad solder joint on the 9-45v pin. Using a thumbtack (temporarily) completes the connection, and LEDs are blinking!

*posted by Victor Franco at 11:56 AM* 0 COMMENTS

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2005

## LEDs Arrive

The blue and white LEDs I purchased from a seller on eBay arrived today. Hard to tell if the LED below is blue or white due to the camera flash! (It's blue, by the way. Everything but the LED looks awful without the flash, so I went with the flash pic). Also picked up a multimeter.



*posted by Victor Franco at 11:27 PM* 0 COMMENTS

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2005

### **R2LA III**

What can I say? R2LA III at Mike Senna's place was a blast! It was the Superbowl of R2 events (this is coming from a guy who missed C3). Over 40 people showed up, six complete R2s, lots of veterans, some newbies (ahem), and a helicopter fly-over! Loved every minute of it. Thanks Mike and Amy!



*posted by Victor Franco at 11:02 PM* 0 COMMENTS

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2005

## Sanded Cylinder Holder, Purchased Router Table

Spent a little time after work sanding a groove into the Ankle Cylinder Holder, as called out by the blueprints. Will hopefully wrap that up tomorrow. Also bought a router table and adapter for the Porter Cable router at Sears.

*posted by Victor Franco at 9:45 PM* 0 COMMENTS

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2005

## Sanded Cylinder Holder, Purchased Protractor, More Leg Work

I (hopefully) finished sanding the grooves in the ankle cylinder holders. Went to Home Depot, looking for wood hardener and a protractor. Found both, but the wood hardener (Minwax) had all but a skull and crossbones on it warning how many ways it could harm you. Since it said it was mainly for rotting wood, I passed. Wrapped up by going over the legs with Plastic Wood one more time, for (again hopefully) a final sanding. I still may refill in the groove in the legs and try again for better alignment, haven't decided.

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*posted by Victor Franco at 8:43 PM* 0 COMMENTS

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2005

## **Dome Arrived!**

September 28. That date never meant much to me. School starts... brush fire season... days get shorter... But September 28, 2005 now ranks as an annual holiday, for today is the day I received my dome! The box was somewhat beat up, but thankfully the contents were in excellent condition, with no damage whatsoever. I was expecting a known defect at the top of the dome, but that was not present. All in all, a very happy day!



*posted by Victor Franco at 2:08 PM* 0 COMMENTS

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2005

## **More Leg Work**

The leg work never ends. In my quest for as smooth a finish as possible, I did another round of sanding and gooping of putty. Will sand again tomorrow. "Will this suffering never end?"

*posted by Victor Franco at 8:03 PM* 0 COMMENTS

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2005

## Tape-Ease Cylinder Cut

Finally! The Tape-Ease cylinder was cut with a band saw, and now I can finish the lower part of the legs. I need to cut one of the ends of the cylinder at a 55 degree angle, and then cover it with MDF. I also (what else?) did more sanding and puttying of the legs. Although you'd think the legs would be mostly putty and sand paper by now, they're not.



*posted by Victor Franco at 8:56 PM* 0 COMMENTS

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