

# LifeLites

By car\_mp



For a long time the AFOLS have had to work hard to be able to illuminate their dioramas and creations as they had imagined in their minds. LEGO® has made different ways to illuminate their creations available to their fans over time. These methods have evolved as technology has done. From the first 2 x 2 brick, with a small light bulb inside and one of its walls transparent, of the early days, to the current LED technology of the Power Functions line or the famous lightbricks.

For models that already use PF for other functions it is not expensive to add the official LEGO LEDs, but if not, the space required for the battery box and connections can be a major obstacle. And the bricks with light, although lately they appear increasingly in official sets, still have very limited use due to their configuration, size and usage.

Even with all these products from the official line, the discontinuity in time, their availability and their prices have pushed AFOLS to go a step ahead of the company and make their own LED-based assemblies, cables and customized light parts to illuminate their cities, vehicles or trains.

Unfortunately many of us have zero capacity for DIY or zero time to devote to all this planning, installation and even programming. That has created a niche market that some companies have used to create a line of business. One of these companies committed to making our life easier is LifeLites.

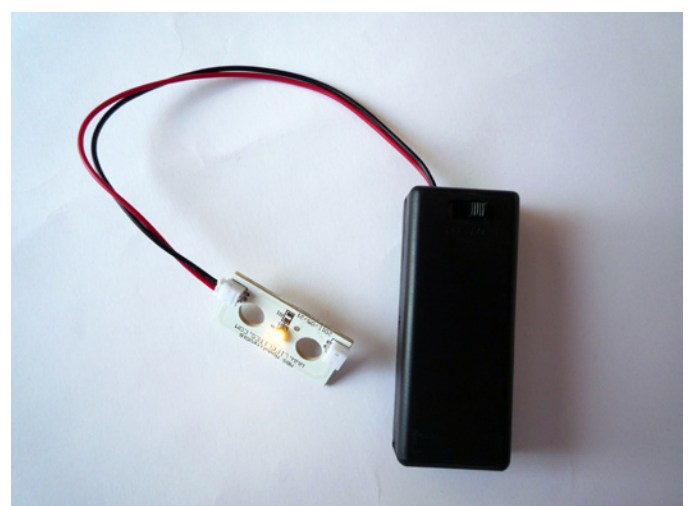
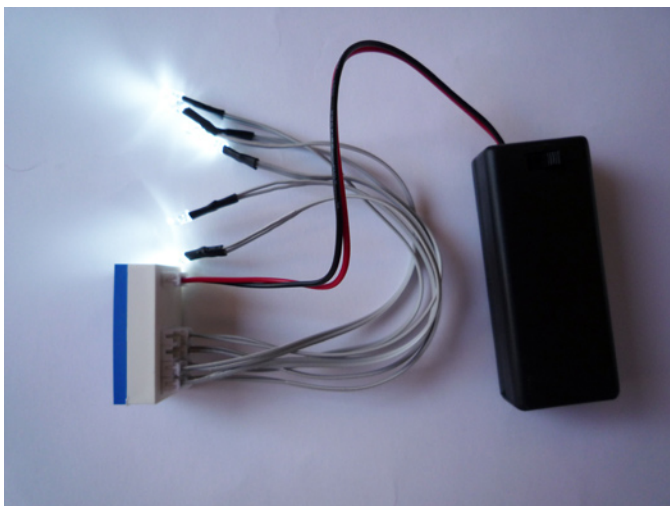
The company markets a series of kits that include everything you need to start making your first attempts in the world of lighting. They have different products according to the buyer's needs and then a catalog of accessories for specific needs in terms of wiring and colors.

The first thing you notice is the small size of the elements, allowing great versatility of use, being able to light up minifigs or small vehicles. The small size of the elements, together with the type of connections, make them inadvisable for the little ones (recommend over 12 years), because it can be difficult to connect and disconnect the elements.

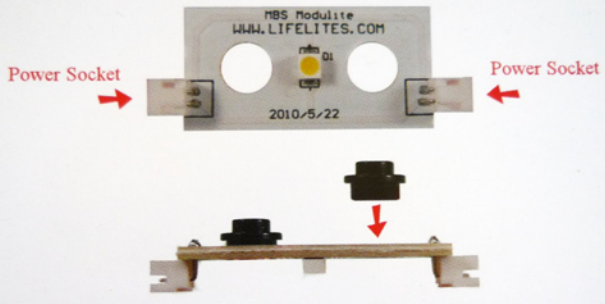
I had the opportunity to test two of its products, a "Modulite kit" and an "Elite kit". I was struck by the design of the first one. It is specially designed to illuminate the interior of buildings or structures where the light source isn't going to be seen. They are designed to be connected in series and placed on the roof of any room with the help of two 1x1 round plates.

The second, the "Elite kit" is closer to the concept of lighting with LEDs of LEGO PF, but with a much smaller size and greater variety of colors. The connecting pins of all kits are compatible and most of them work at 3V so you can mix systems for added versatility. This kit comes with a main unit with eight LED outputs. Taking into account that it can be put in series of up to 4 of these units connected to the same source of 3V, we have the possibility of light 32 LEDs with the same battery box. That's a lot of LEDs. This unit is mounted on a 2x4 plate to facilitate their integration in the constructions. In addition to these kits there is also a product that drew my attention but which unfortunately I could not test this time, the Elite Jr, which brings a series of pre-recorded lighting effects (different intensities, sequences, etc) to give even more life to our models. Unlike its brothers, the power comes from a button battery and not 2 AAA batteries as in previous kits.

LEGO City fans can also find a kit with everything needed to mount a lamppost in your city.



Bring your models to life with products from  
[www.lifelites.com](http://www.lifelites.com)



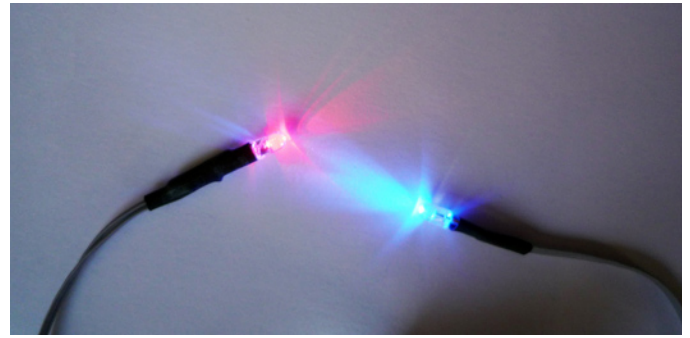
**Instructions:**  
 Insert a 1x1 round plate (not included) into each hole of each Modulte board as shown in the photo above. Connect battery box to any Modulte power connector and daisy-chain remaining Modulites together with the supplied extension cables. You can connect up to 32 Modulites to one battery box.

Insert two AAA batteries (not included) into the battery box and turn on. You're ready to install the Modulites into your model!

**Package Contents:**  
 Full Kit - 1 battery box, 3 Modulte units, 2 jumper cable  
 Starter Kit - 1 battery box, 1 Modulte unit  
 Expansion Kit - 2 Modulte units, 2 jumper cables

Technical support can be found at <http://www.lifelites.com> or you can contact customer service at [support@lifelites.com](mailto:support@lifelites.com).

**This product uses two AAA batteries, not included.**



**About the company:**

Rob Hendrix started installing LED lights into LEGO® models and minifigs in January 2002 at his home in Bismarck, Arkansas and at various “brick” conventions he attended around the US. By 2004, he had invented the initial LifeLites product line. With the help of Stuart Guarnieri, who was well versed in programming Microchips, the first run of LifeLites modular lighting products became available in 2006 and were sold by Brickmodder Labs from a newly created website; [www.lifelites.com](http://www.lifelites.com). LifeLites, LLC was formed in 2012.  
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Apart from the kits, you can also get extension cables and LEDs of different colors for more specific uses.

In short, this is a very effective lighting system, very small and with great versatility. The only drawback perhaps could be the slight difficulty when it comes to the handling of the wiring, especially to unplug. Its reduced size and how tight the wires fit, sometimes arouse a terrible desire to pull the cable, NEVER DO THAT, as anyone who operates electrical machines already knows. However, given that its use is recommended for kids over 12 years, this should not influence us to make the decision on the method of choice to illuminate our creations. Its operation is technically simple and you will get a very good play experience and incredible results.

