

Add a cold cathode to your jewel

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This assumes you already have a clear jewel, if you don't then see some of the other tutorials. Having already made the jewel on my xbox clear I decided that it needed that little bit extra, having added lots of shiny lights to my pc I thought it necessary to do the same with my xbox :)

So.... we have this tutorial, there are various, and to be honest probably simpler ways to do this but.... this is how I did it :)

Items required

- Sunbeam cold cathode fan grill (I used purple but other colours available)
<http://www.sunbeamtech.com/new/products/ccfl/ccfl%20series-round%20ccfl%20fan%20grill.htm> purchased from www.ebuyer.co.uk.
- Dremel (the essential tool for just about everything!)
- Some small pins
- Superglue
- White cotton
- Blue Tack
- Patience ;-)

Method



Before you start this you need a clear jewel and a bit 'ole in the top of your xbox case, otherwise there's not much point!

I'm not going to show you how I did this bit but there are other tutorials on www.xbox-scene.com showing you how to do this.



Split the plastic on the fan grill in half, this should allow you access to the cathodes themselves. Take the cathodes out and place them somewhere they won't get damaged. I put mine on a tea towel ☺ you can see the plastic grill on the left of this which we will modify slightly to house the cathodes in the xbox.



As the grill is domed there would not be much room in the xbox, so I took one half of the grill and cut the legs joining the middle ring and the outer ring. This way the cathodes can sit in the rings almost flat with plenty of clearance once inside.



I wanted to join the middle ring and the outer ring back together again to hold both cathodes, I did this by setting up a small jig to hold everything in place and using superglue to glue small pins to join the rings together. I found that 4 pins were not enough so ended up using 8. Remember to put the pins on the right side, the one without the recess for the cathode.



The 2 cathode were placed in the rings and held in by tying them with some white cotton. This was then put in place and held in by trusty blue tack. I was going to attach it to the top of the case but figured that this would be easier if I needed to open it again what with the wires and all.

The inverter fits quite nicely just behind the dvd drive, the power cable is a pass through type so plug this into the hard disc and then plug the power in the other end, all the power cabling will fit just behind the hard disc with a little coaxing.



A little test 1st before putting things back together just to make sure that it all works ☺

Looking promising ☺

I didn't bother mounting the switch anywhere for now; I just shoved all the cables in and put it all back together.



You need to line up the cathode, on mine the outside cathode (quite nicely) just about follows the hole cut for the jewel.



Once it's all done you should end up with something that looks like this

← ☺

You can get these cathodes in all sorts of different colours so you could get it to match your curtains!

p.s. no I don't have purple curtains ☺

Update !!



Since I wrote this tutorial I have taken the middle cathode out so now it looks like this

← ☺

I think this looks a little smoother, I've also added a sheet of white paper underneath, this looks good when the light is turned on but not so good when the light is off.



This is what it looks like with the light off, ignore the blue tack I've just not got round to gluing in the jewel yet...



I also moved the switch to the outside, I had to de-solder the wires poke them out the back near the fan and re-solder them again. I also had to coax the hole somewhat with the dremel to make the switch fit.



And so this is the finished product all lit up and shiny like which is nice ☺

THE END