

Caution on the Party Light

I recently purchased the May edition of SILICON CHIP and on the whole found your magazine very readable. However, I was rather alarmed by your "Party Light" project and felt compelled to write.

Whilst the idea and project are fine, an essential warning to your readers has been omitted. High intensity flashes at a slow rate are exceedingly hazardous to people suffering from epilepsy; flashing lights can trigger epileptic fits. This is a serious situation indeed and one which should have been mentioned.

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We checked the contents of your letter with a medical specialist who has confirmed that flashing lights can trigger seizures in some epilepsy sufferers. Indeed, even the innocuous effect of sunlight flashing through trees as a car drives along a country road has been known to bring on an epileptic attack.

However, there are flashing lights everywhere; beacons, advertising signs, car traffic indicators and so on. How do these unfortunate sufferers avoid all these instances? For the record, the Discolight featured in this issue would present a similar hazard.