How to Assemble an Aquarium Strip Light

By Over The Edge and Aquariumframeswholesale.com

Parts Needed
For Single Bulb Fixture

- Light Shell
- Light Insert
- Cord With Switch
- Electronic Ballast
- Two #6-1/2 Screws
- Two #10-1/2 Screws
- Two Wire Nuts
- Two Light Sockets

For Double Bulb Fixtures You will need Two Ballast, Four Light Sockets, and Four Self Tapping Screws, and Four Light Shell Screws

Tools Needed

- Wire Strippers/Cutter
- Phillips Screw Driver
  (Magnetic works Best)
- Razor knife/Box Cutter
- Power Driver/Drill
- ¼ inch Drill Bit
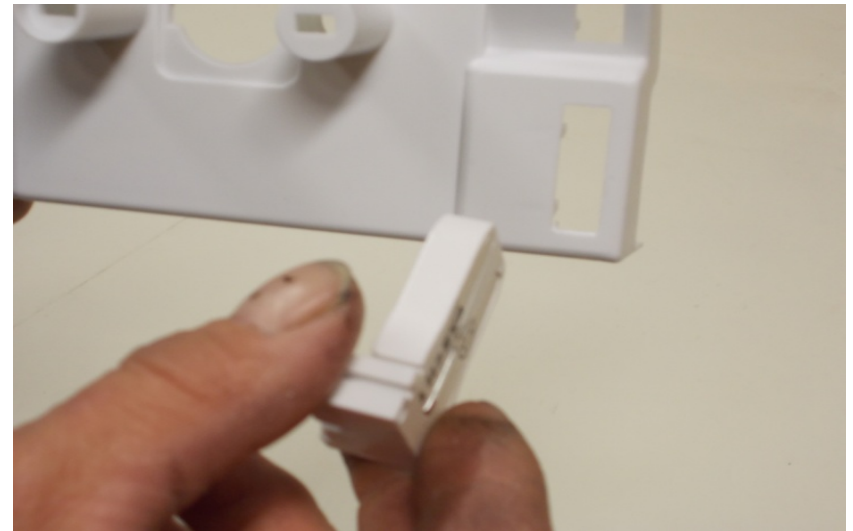
Installing the Light Sockets

Installing the Light Sockets

-Scrape a little at a time, checking to make sure that the light socket doesn't fall out

-Repeat for each light socket

-Use Razor Knife to scrape away enough plastic to make the light sockets click in without breaking the insert
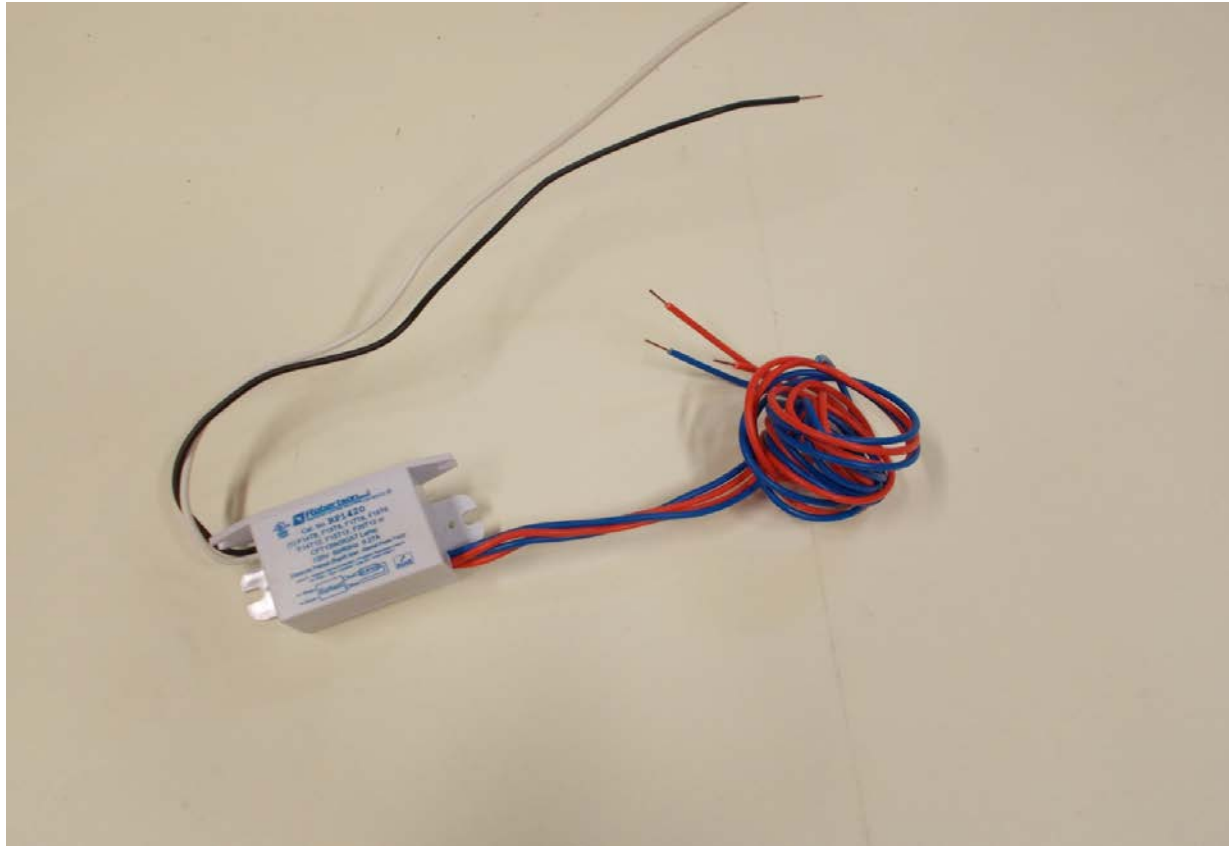
Installing the Light Sockets

-Push Light Socket in one side of the insert at a time, clicking it into place
-If the socket doesn't clip in place, scrape a little more plastic away and try again.

-This procedure may be a little difficult for first time builders

Installing the ballast

Installing the Ballast

-Lay the Ballast Flat, with the mounting brackets facing up

-Set the insert facing upwards

Installing the Ballast

-Slide Ballast under the insert, lining up screw holes

-Put one #6-1/2 screw in one side of ballast, leaving it loose

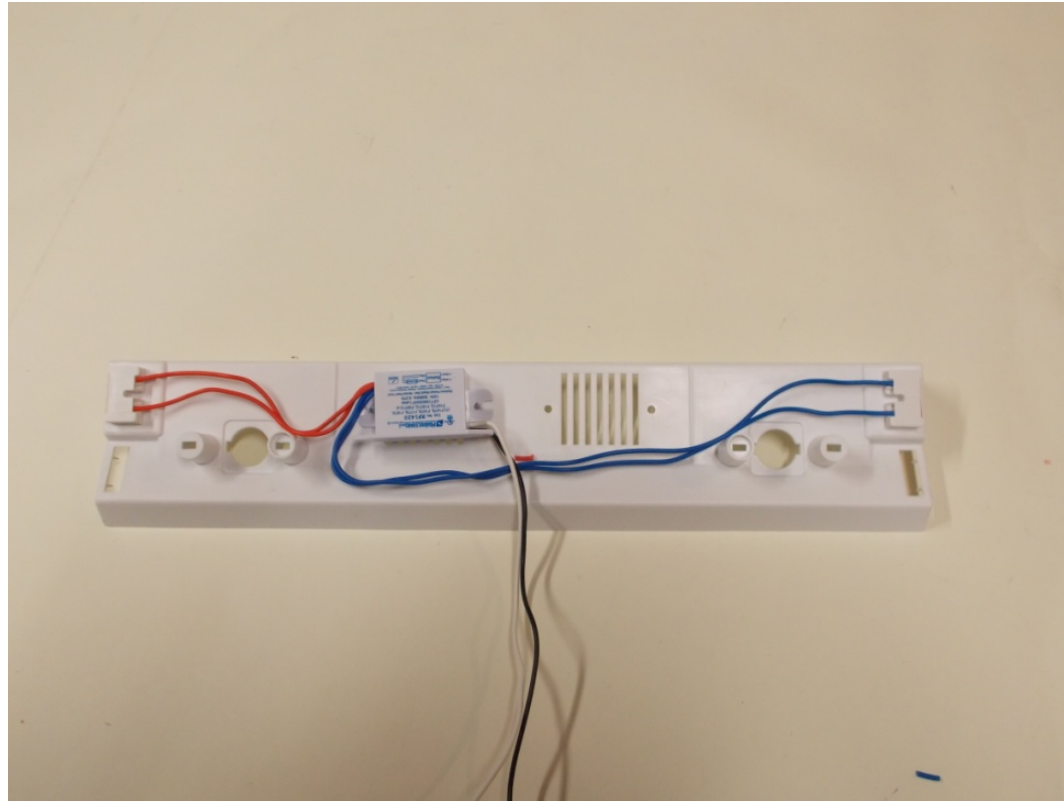-Leaving the first screw loose will make it easier to line up the second screw

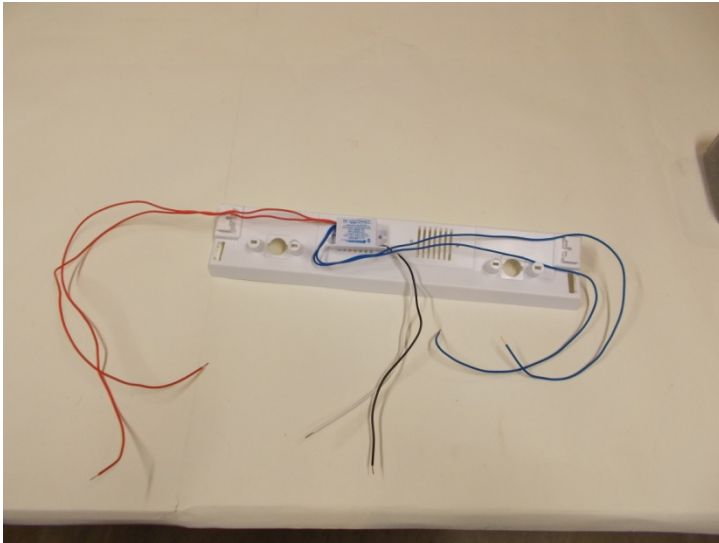-Install second screw

-Both screws can now be tighten. **Do not over tighten screws**
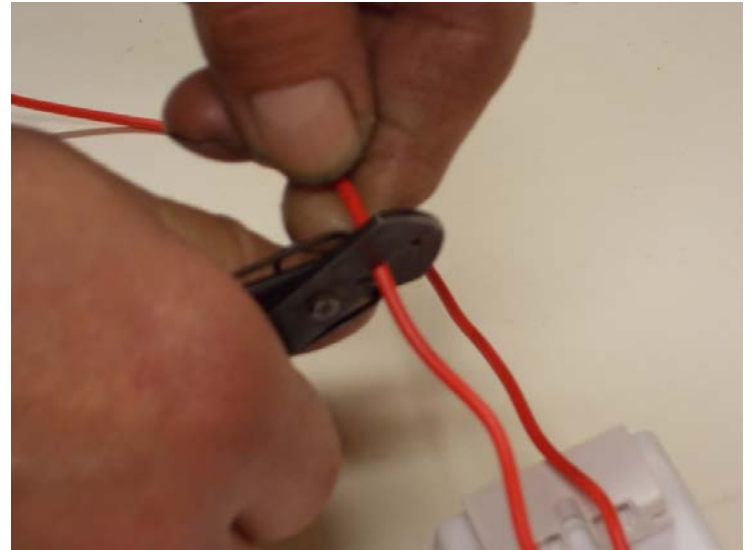
Wiring the Ballast

Wiring the Ballast

-Take wires and separate them by color.

-Cut wires making sure to leave a couple inches of extra length

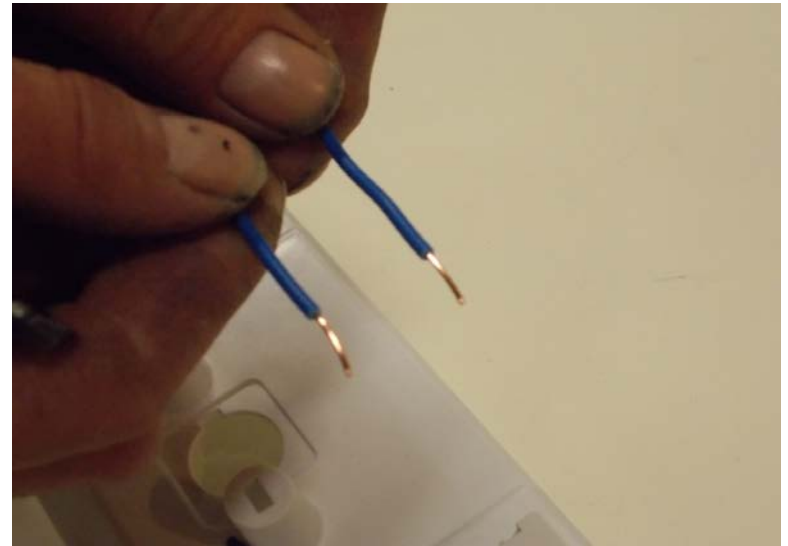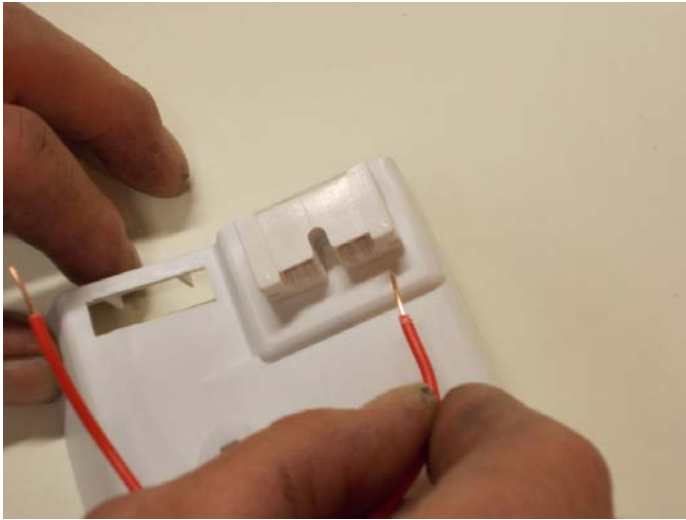-Do this for both the blue and red wires

Wiring the Ballast

-Strip the wires ½ inch from the end
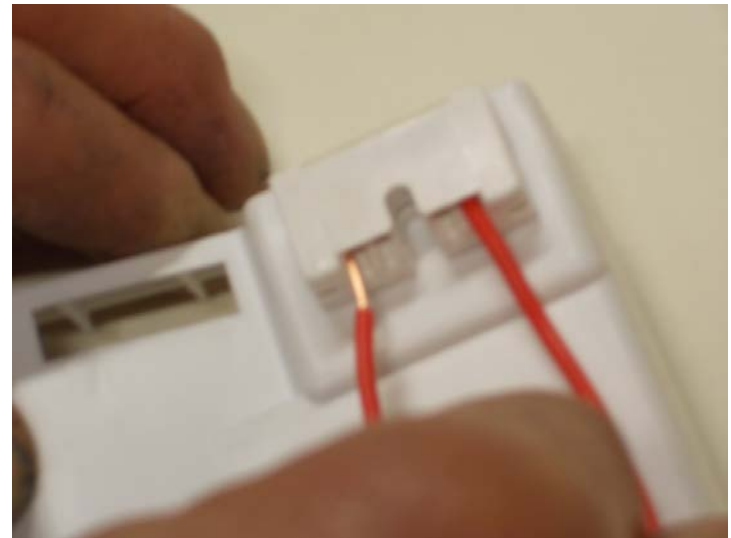
-Do this for both the red and blue wires
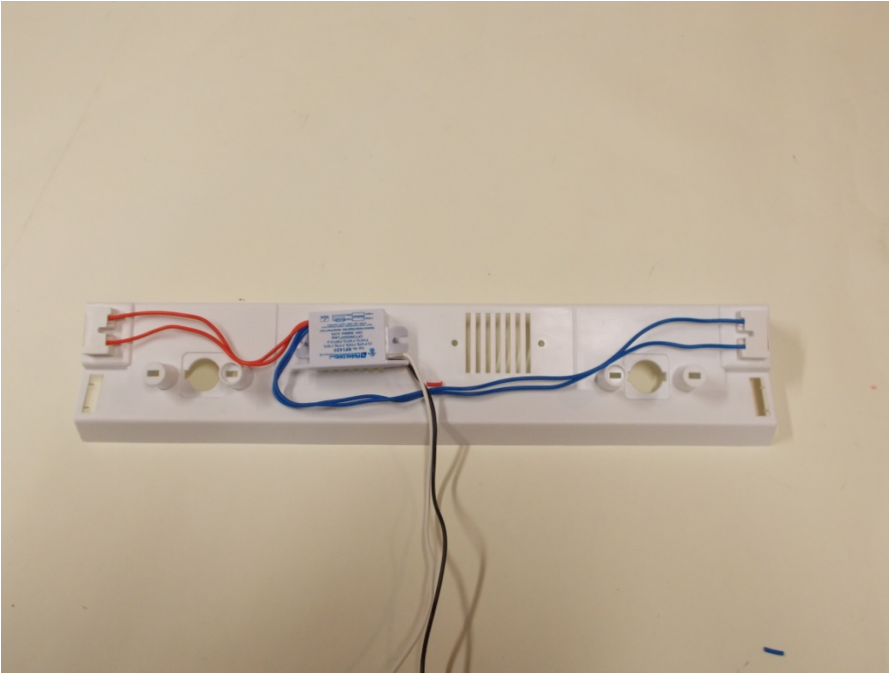
Wiring the Ballast

-Insert the red wire into one of the holes in the light socket

-Insert the other red wire into the other hole on the same light socket
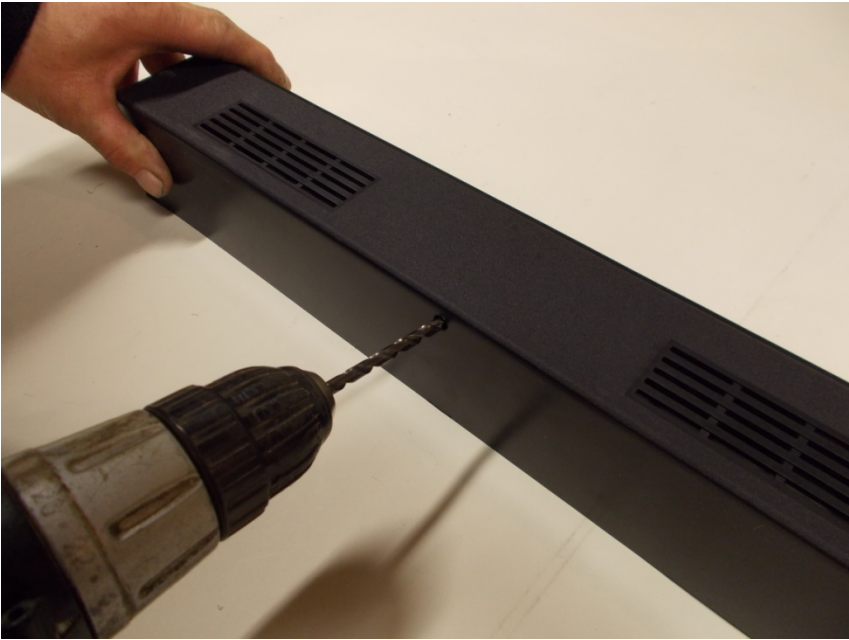
-Repeat this step for the blue wires

Wiring the Ballast

-Your Insert is now completed

-For a double bulb insert, repeat all previous steps up to this point

Preparing the Light Shell

-Drill ¼ inch hole in the center of the back of the shell approximately a ¼ inch from the top of the shell

Preparing the Light Shell

-Take cord with switch and push the wire through the hole in the back of the light shell
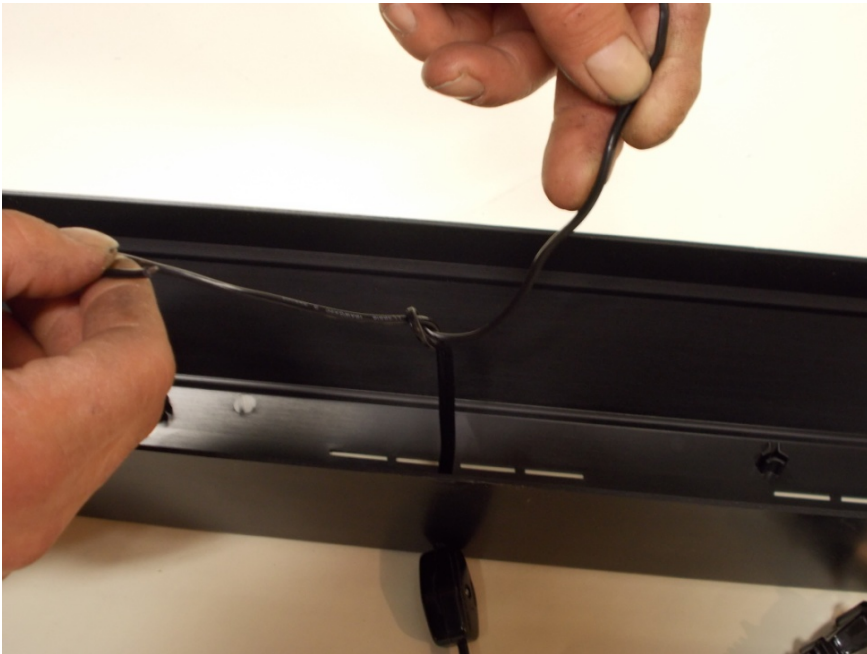
Preparing the Light Shell

-Spread the wires apart and tie a knot in the wire

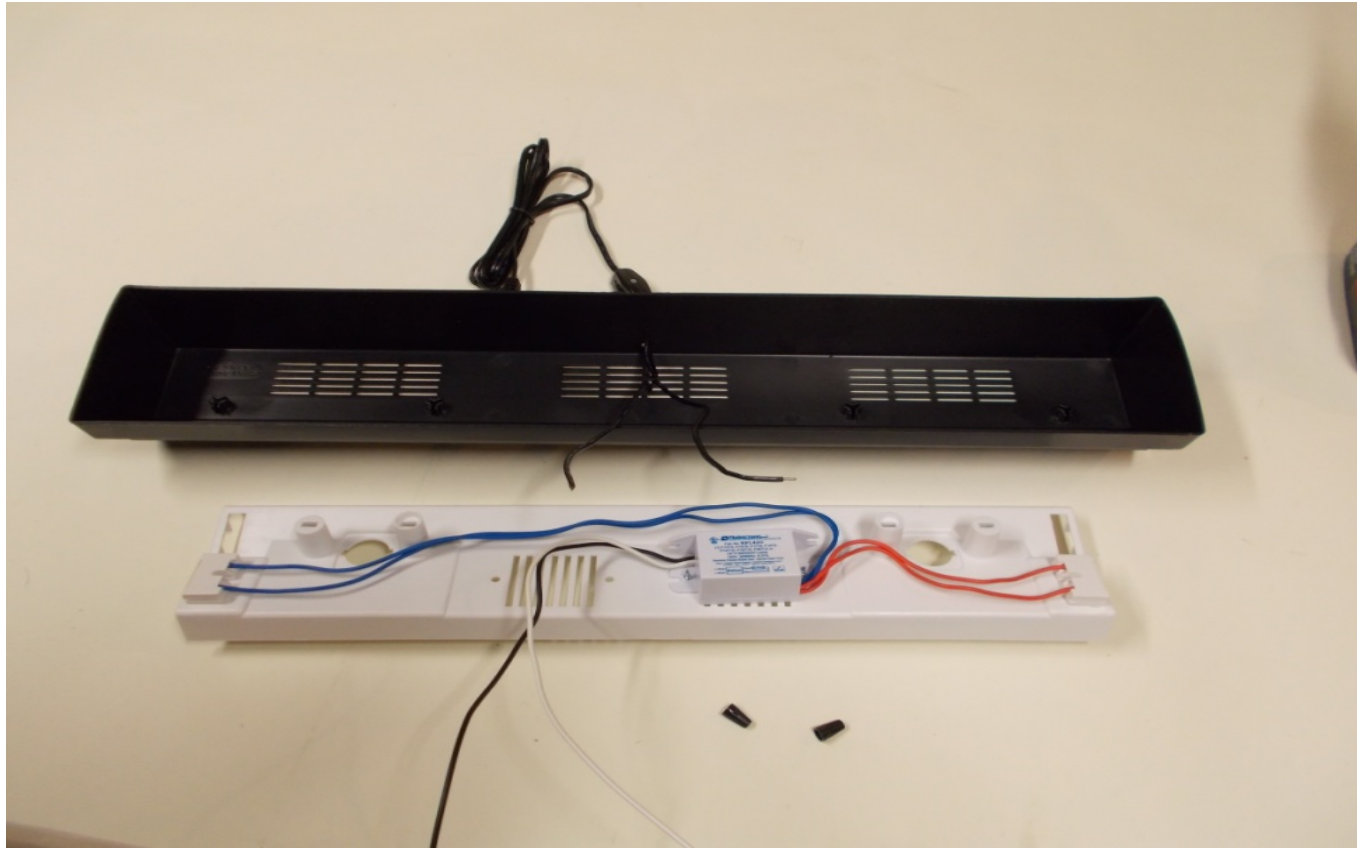-This will prevent the wire from pulling back out of the shell

Preparing the Light Shell

-Your Light Shell is now prepared for the light insert
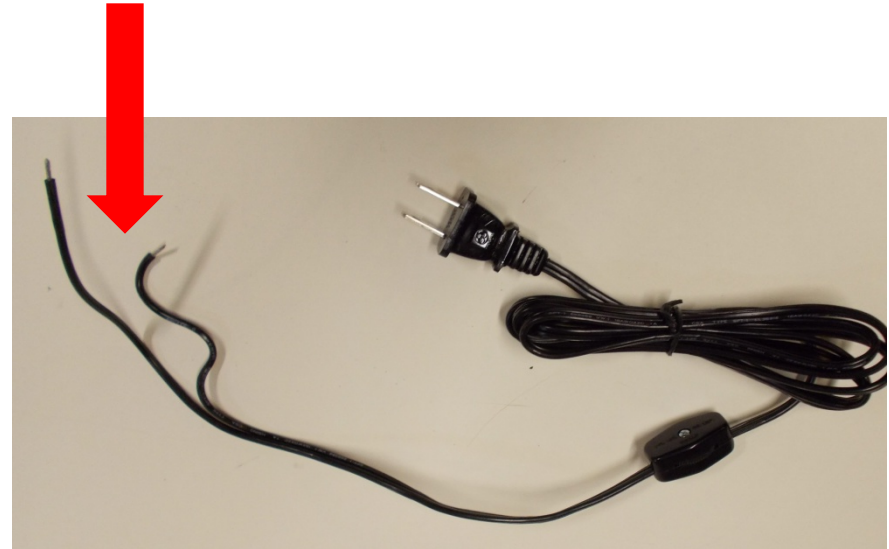
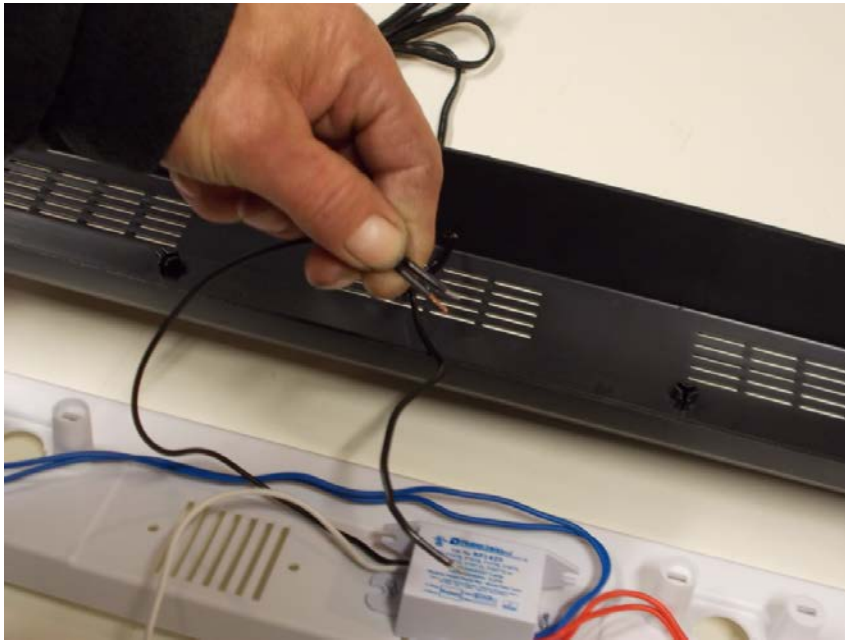# Installing the Insert into Light Shell

Installing the Insert into Light Shell

-You have 2 black wires coming from the cord with switch and 2 wires (Black and White) coming from the ballast

Installing the Insert into Light Shell

-Take one wire from the cord and the black wire from the ballast

Installing the Insert into Light Shell

-Use Wire nut to tie one wire from cord with switch and black wire from ballast together
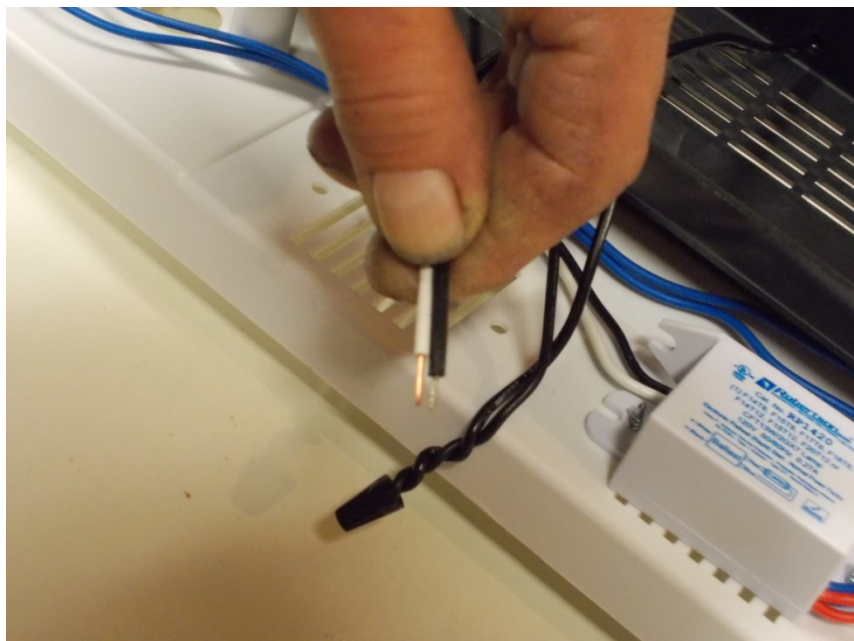
-Keep twisting the wire nut until wire looks braided

-This will help keep the wires together when installing the insert
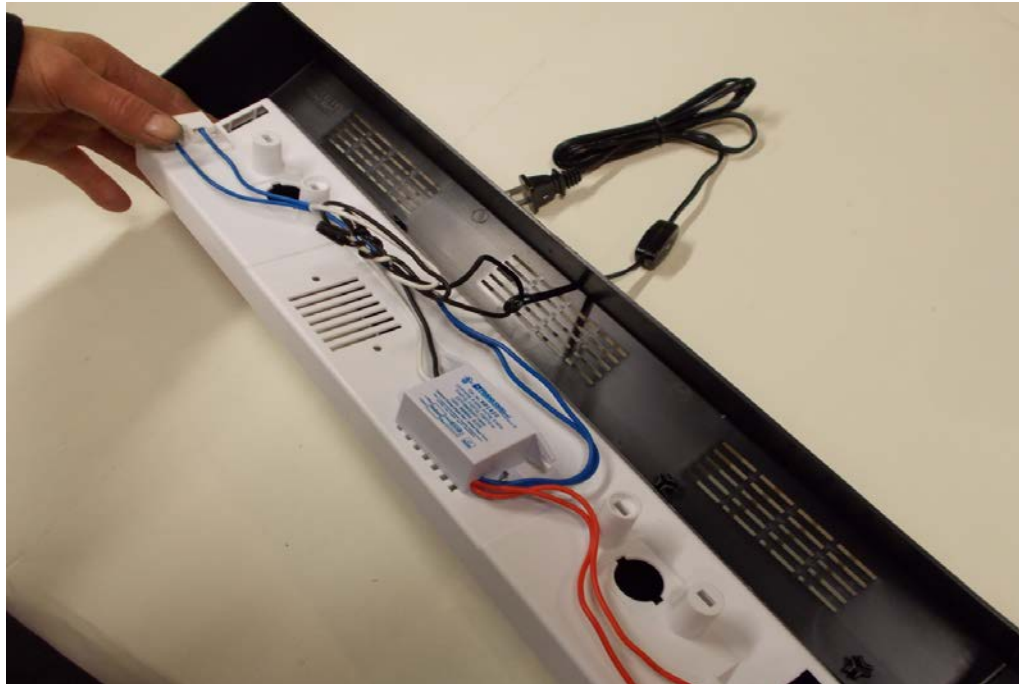
Installing the Insert into Light Shell

-Repeat last step for the other black wire from the cord with switch to the white wire from ballast
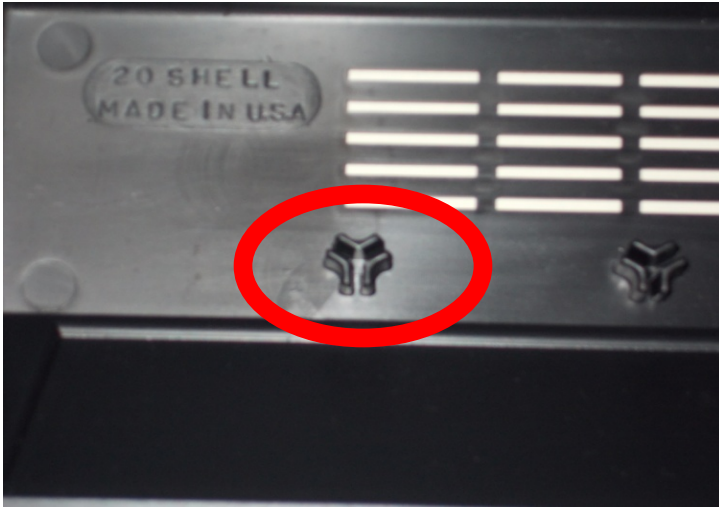
Installing Insert into the shell

(Optional Step)

At this point, it is recommended to test your light fixture to make sure that your light is working properly before installing insert into shell

Lining up the Insert

-When installing insert into shell, line up raised pegs in shell to holes in the insert

-Make sure when you are installing insert into the shell, that the air vents are towards the back of the shell.

Screwing Insert into shell

Installing Insert into shell
Screwing Insert into shell

-Using the Two #10-1/2 screws, make sure the light insert is lined up with the pegs in the shell

-Install the 2 screws on the inside holes of the insert

-Do not over tighten the screws or you will break the pegs off in the shell

Congratulations

-You have completed building your very own electronic Fluorescent Light Fixture

-If you haven't done so already, You can now test out your light