



## Modifying the Strobe Light:

You may not have to modify the strobe at all. But if you need a faster flash rate than your strobe allows, open it up & find the large capacitor inside. Capacitors are marked in microfarads, abbreviated as mf,mfd or ufd. By replacing the capacitor with one of the same voltage-rating (usually 250 volts or more) and a SMALLER value in microfarads, you can increase the flash rate. Halving the microfarads doubles the rate.

The other component that can be changed is the potentiometer (the speed control device with the knob on it). Using a smaller value (measured in ohms or Kilohms, abbreviated with the greek letter 'omega' or the letter K) will speed up the strobe. There may also be a resistor (small cylinder with several colored stripes on it, and wires coming out of each end). Replacing this resistor with one of smaller value will also speed up the strobe.

To generate a complex pattern, you will either have to design and build a triggering circuit using IC chips, or rig up a mechanical device with a multiple-contact rotary switch and a motor. It HAS been done.

To modify the strobe for mobile operation the simplest thing is to get a 110-volt inverter that will run off of a car battery by plugging into the cigarette lighter & run the strobe from that. Or, you can figure out (or find in a hobby electronics magazine) a strobe circuit that will run from batteries. Battery-powered strobes may also be available, either assembled or as kits.

## Stealth Technology:

Most light sensors and photocells are more sensitive in the infrared area of the light spectrum. Infrared (IR) is invisible to the human eye. Putting an infrared filter over the strobe light may allow the Chrome Box to operate in traffic undetected by police or other observers. IR filters can be obtained from military surplus sniper scope illuminators, or from optical supply houses like Dow-Corning or Edmunds Scientific Co.

## Using the Chrome Box:

Mounted on your car, the Chrome Box can guarantee you green lights at major intersections in cities that have OptoComs. Handheld Chrome Boxes may be used to create gridlock by interfering with the normal flow of traffic. If you have access to a window overlooking a traffic light, you can play pranks by switching the signals at inappropriate moments, or you can plug the strobe into an exposed outlet at a laundromat or gas station.

## Some Decoded Patterns:

Torrance, California

Standard large Radio Shack strobe lights are used. Moderately fast rate.

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Manhattan Beach, CA

Flash-pairs in a 4:1 ratio, at a rate of 2 flash-pairs per second.

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<----- 1 sec ----->

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\* Please add any new patterns or info you discover to this Phile \*

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Thanks to those who posted observations on the South Bay WWIV's.

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