

**LEDTowerSol**

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# Chapter 1

## LEDTowerSol

### 1.1 LED Solution For Your DIY A1200 Tower

Article by: Craig Daines.

Thanks to: Carl Curtis for the use of his handscanner.

#### LED Solution For Your DIY A1200 Tower

This article details how to overcome the problems concerning connecting up the hard drive, floppy and power LEDs in your A1200 tower project, and gives you a nice Amiga logo. Whatsmore, it's very easy to do. Read on for more info...

The joys of tower conversions have been thoroughly explored in my A1200 tower article and the removal of the console case can be a very liberating experience for our favourite machine.

There do however remain a few niggles with a tower system. For a start there is the loss of the Leds. It is possible to attach the tower Leds to the Amiga's PCB, but this is quite fiddly and I suspect that most people will not bother with this approach because it's fiddly and involves some soldering to be done. And then there is the less tangible loss of the Amiga 'look'. The cases are either bland and featureless, or (horror of horrors marked as PC's! spit!).

These niggles are important because Amiga owners are perfectionists. Anyone who uses one does so because they do not 'put up' with things they know can be better. Fear not, because help is at hand. This handy trick will solve both of these problems in a very simple way. It involves no complex work and best of all, only uses things that you would otherwise throw away.

You will need:

1. A vacant 5.2" drive bay.
2. A blank 5.2" drive bay cover.
3. The PCB from your original A1200 console case with the LEDs and wires still attached.
4. Your original A1200 console case.
5. And a hacksaw, a small drill, a pencil, sandpaper and glue.

What are we going to do?

We are going to remove the Amiga logo and Led from your original A1200

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console case and mount them in the drive bay. Simple enough?

How do we do this then?

First, place the face of the 5.2" drive bay cover over the LED holes and Amiga logo on your original A1200 console case and draw round it with a pencil. Make sure that it is level and try to get the edge as near to the letter 'A' of the Amiga logo as possible, because the PCB needs space to the right of the LED holes. When you are happy with the area you've choosen, cut it out with the hacksaw and smooth the edges down with some sandpaper. Do take time to check the template mark because you've only one A1200 case to cut up. Now you can reattach the PCB. Before doing this, you may like to put something in between the LED to reduce the amount of light bleeding between them.

At this point you might be finished. Depending on the design of your tower and the accuracy of your cutting, it may be possible to simply snap the plastic oblong into the drive bay or hold it in with a little glue.

If this is not possible, then you still have a little work to do. Drill some holes in the front of the drive bay cover using a hand drill or reamer until your able to get the hacksaw blade in, then cut away the front of the 5.2" bat cover so that the outside and the clips are left. Then replace the front with the piece you cut from the console case. If you've not already reattached the LED, do so now to check there is enough space and finally, check there is no problem with the drive bay cover being upside down in your tower design. When all these things are checked, glue the two pieces of plastic firmly together and then snap your new badge into place in your tower.

Gasp in awe that your now have an Amiga that dares to speak its name. Finally, plug the wires from the LED into the A1200s motherboard (where they originally used to be connected) and they will work as normal).

If you're only interested in the logo, then this will fit nicely into the front of a 3.5" bay. If you do not have any spare bays, then you could just glue the logo on to your case, but this won't look at all neat which seems to defeat the whole object.

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