

What are Multi colour LEDs?

An LED that can give different colors is useful in some applications. For example, an LED could indicate all systems OK when it becomes Green and faulty if it becomes Red. LEDs that can produce two colors are called Bicolor LEDs.

A bicolor LED encloses two LEDs (usually Red and Green) in a common package. The two chips are mounted on two terminal posts so that the anode of one LED forms the cathode of the other. Bicolor LED gives Red colour if current passes in one direction and turns Green when the direction of current is reversed.

Tricolor and multicolor LEDs are also available which have two or more chips enclosed in a common package. The Tricolor LED has two anodes for red and green chips and a common cathode. So it emits red and green colors depending on the anode that carries current. If both the anodes are connected to positive, both the LEDs lights and yellow colour is produced. Common anode and separate cathode type LEDs are also available. Bicolor LED glows in different colors ranging from green through yellow orange and red based on the current flowing through their anodes by selecting suitable series resistor to restrict anode current.

Multicolor LED contains more than two chips-usually red, green and blue chips- within a single package. Flashing type multicolor LEDs are now available with two leads. This gives a rainbow colour display which is highly attractive.