

Westfalia Propane Indicator LED replacement

by Todd Last



VIEW OF THE FINISHED PROJECT

Among the many eccentricities of the Dometic refrigerator found in the Westfalia campers, is the anemic green LED that indicates if the refrigerator is lit on propane. Trying to figure out if the LED is lit or not while at the same time, pressing the ignitor button and stroking the air pump can be an exercise in frustration.

My solution was to replace the green LED with a 5mm blue LED (Radio Shack PN: 276-311). Not only is the replacement blue LED brighter than the factory green LED, but it also holds a better mnemonic - a blue LED for the blue propane flame.

Here is a step-by step of how to perform this modification.

Required tools: Philips and flat-bladed screwdriver, soldering iron, solder, desoldering braid or desoldering vacuum bulb.

Required skill: You need to know how to solder.

Approximate time: 30 minutes

Note: *click on any image for a larger view.*

Step one:

Remove the two philip screws at either side of the panel. Then slowly pull the

panel from the cabinet. Once it clears, you will have to reach inside the hole and disconnect the electrical connector inside the cabinet.

Step two:

Turn the unit over, and using a flat-bladed screwdriver, SLOWLY and GENTLY work the strain-relief plug out of the back of the housing. Once the plug is out, you will be able to move the black housing out of the way to get access to the circuit board.



**PRY
UP
GENTLY!**

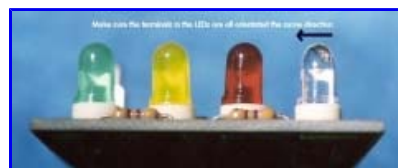
Step three:

Locate the solder connections on the back of the board where the green LED is mounted. Using desoldering braid or the vacuum bulb, heat and remove the existing solder. Then pull the green LED free. Don't lose the white spacing ring, it will be reused. Make sure that you have two holes at the solder joints so the new LED can be installed.

Step Four:

Trim the leads to of the new blue LED to the same length as the old LED that you just removed. Now, install the blue LED using the same white spacer that was used with the old LED. Take a close look at the terminals inside the new LED - make sure they are orientated the same way as the other LEDs. The LED can only be installed one way - if you put it in backwards, it will not work.

Note in the photo, the right hand terminal looks like an upside down "L" and they are all facing the same way. Once you are satisfied that the LED is installed correctly and is at the same height as the other LEDs, solder the LED to the circuit board.



NOTE HOW THE LEDS

ARE ORIENTATED**REAR OF THE CIRCUIT BOARD AFTER SOLDERING****Step five:**

Set the circuit board back in its housing and reinstall the strain-relief plug. It should simply snap back together. Then reconnect the electrical connector and reassemble the panel back in the cabinet.

**THE CIRCUIT BOARD BACK IN ITS HOUSING****FINISHED PROJECT READY TO GO
BACK IN THE VAN****Final Step:**

Now you are ready to test your handiwork. Light the fridge on propane and enjoy that bright blue light!

If you have any questions, you may contact me at:

Rubatoguy@mindspring.com

[HOME](#)