

Extra information, not currently published on the website.

With the unit complete, all that remains is to put it into a case. The case is necessary as the oscillator circuit can be upset unless it is insulated. I made a case using 1.5mm thick polystyrene sheet. Simply cut a base the same size as the stripboard, and four sides tall enough to exceed the height of the assembled unit by at least 2 mm. Do not forget to allow for the thickness of the base when cutting the sides. Glue the sides to the edges of the base, giving you an open top box.

When the glue has set, cut or file slots in the sides to allow all the wires out. Finally cut a top to fit over the case. Put the unit in the box, placing a small piece of foam rubber over it so that when the top is fitted it holds the unit lightly but firmly in place. To allow access to the circuit, the top is held in place with a small rubber band.

Use wire as short and thick as possible for the connection to the glowplug. This will minimise any voltage drop and provide the best possible glow. It is also a good idea to run a bead of solder along the two strips of copper on the board between the MOSFET connections and the wires leading to the glowplug for the same reason.

Errata

On the circuit diagram, pins 4 and 5 are incorrectly labelled and should be swapped. The board layout is correct.

The NiCd cell is connected to position C1. This was incorrect in the article published in the magazine.