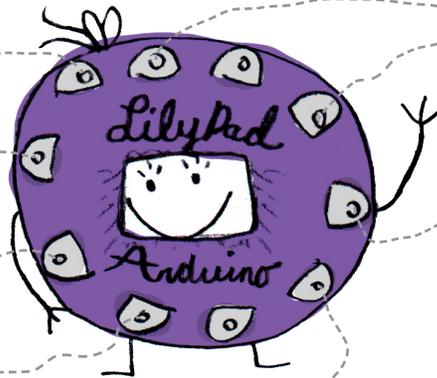


USE SOFT CIRCUITS TO ELECTRIFY YOUR WARDROBE

Anything that runs on electricity uses what is called a circuit. Just like the name sounds, it's a path, a lane for electricity to flow around something. Instead of sharp circuit boards or pokey wires, you can use silver conductive thread and make your clothes and stuffed animals into soft circuits, for lights, sounds, and even little computers!



People have been making some pretty awesome projects with soft circuits; like a skirt that lights up to point North whichever way you stand, or a t-shirt with an image of a wolf that has glowing red eyes and howls! How about a dress that glitters at different speeds depending on how you dance? It's all possible with soft circuits and little computers called microcontrollers, like the Lilypad Arduino.



Syuzi (fashioningtech.com) in her homemade Tron Quorra costume, fitted with lots of blue glowing EL wire.



It's not just for clothing though. Researchers at MIT made an interactive wall that uses conductive paint to make touch sensors work with lights and motors magnetically attached to the wall, all while looking like a beautiful mural! In another project, they put a variety of flexible conductive materials on paper or fabric in a spiral to make an electromagnet. When an audio signal is run through it, it acts just like a regular speaker, but flat and soft!

These are just a few ideas of what people are doing, not just what's possible.
What would you make with soft circuits?

Check out these Super-Awesome Soft Circuit resources:
instructables.com * craftzine.com * fashioningtech.com * tiny.cc/mit-high-low-tech

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