

LESSON 3 Introduction to the LED

Watch video
Lesson 3



In today's world, we use LEDs for light everywhere.

The red LED in this lab was designed to light up bright red and operate on about 2 volts DC with approximately 18 milliamps of current flowing through it.

The red lens is 5 mm in diameter and has two leads coming out of it. The shorter of the two wire leads is the negative side.

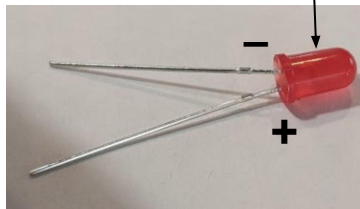
Also, the red plastic case is **beveled** on one edge. We call this the **'flat side'**. It indicates the negative side.



Practice Quiz

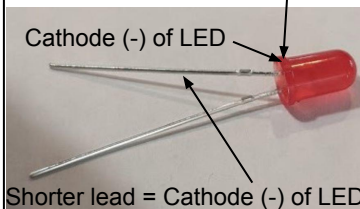
Description of LED (light-emitting diode)

Red Plastic Lens on LED



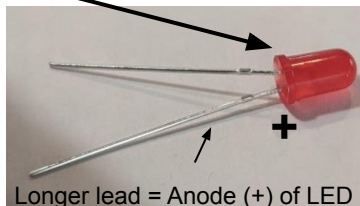
1

Beveled edge on LED sometimes called the 'flat side' of the LED indicates the Cathode.



2

Shorter lead = Cathode (-) of LED

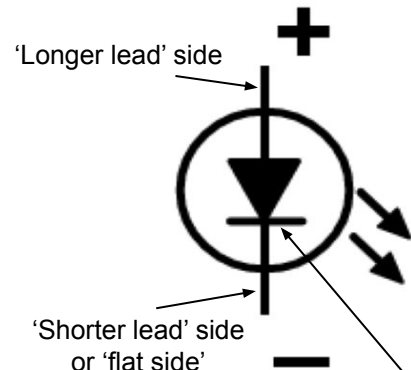


3

Longer lead = Anode (+) of LED
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Schematic Symbol

LED
(light-emitting diode)



This line in the symbol indicates the negative side of LED.

As you see, an LED has a positive and negative side, which means it has 'polarity'.

Note: Resistors do not have polarity.

Activity Page Lab 1201

Introduction to Components

3b

Draw the schematic symbol for the LED in each of these spaces.
Be sure to label the shorter and longer leads as we show them on Page 10.

