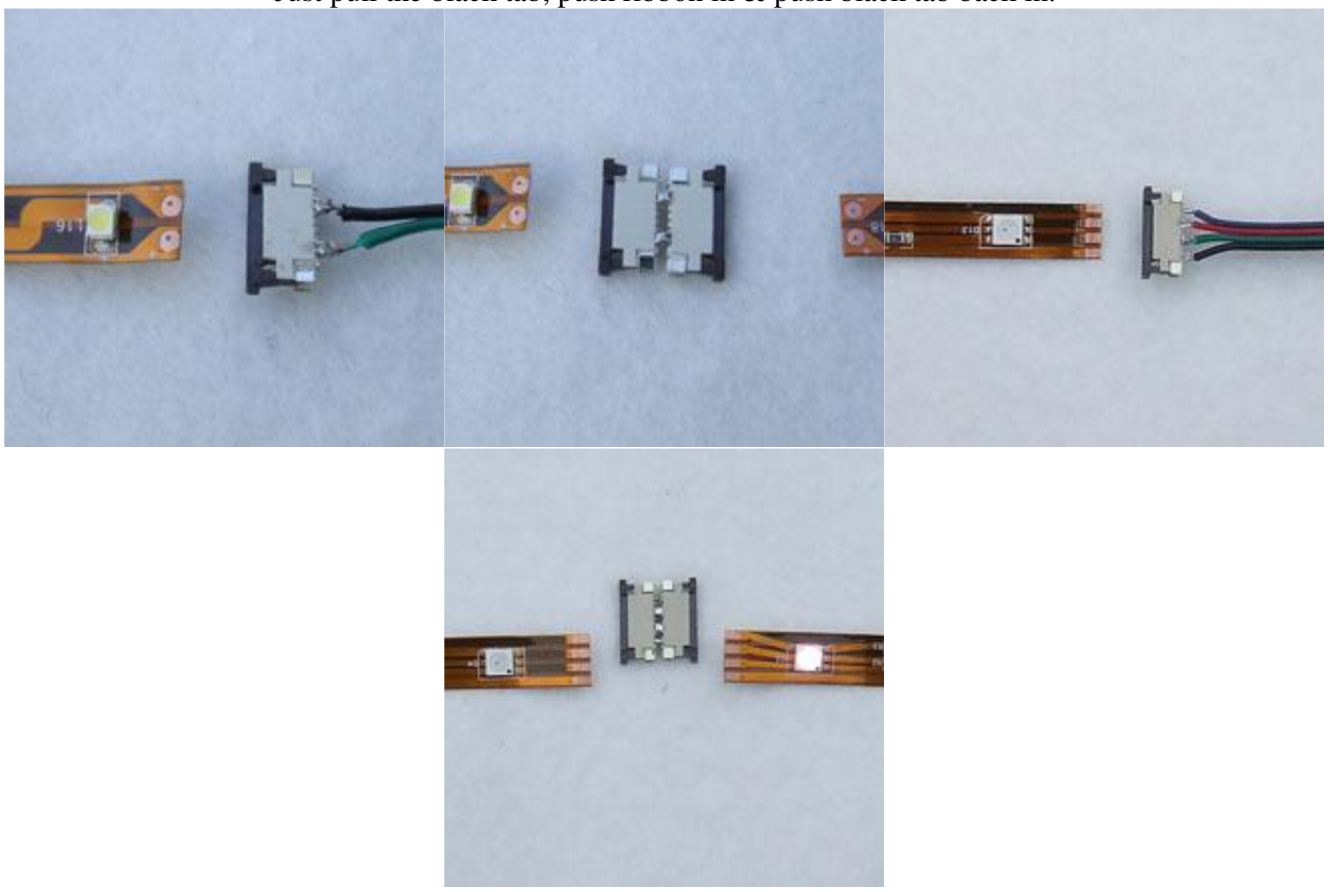
Ribbon Strip Connector Instructions

These adjustable connectors (for 8mm or 10mm ribbon) eliminate the need to solder.
Just pull the black tab, push ribbon in & push black tab back in.



Instructions

1. We recommend testing your ribbon before installing it. That way you can be sure your power supply and ribbon strip work together and you understand exactly how it will work. Occasionally it happens that a customer inadvertently damages a reel of ribbon strip. In the very unlikely event your reel is defective when it arrives, you'll know.

2. You may cut the ribbon strip ONLY on the cut marks, which occur about every 2 inches for monochrome and 4 inches for red-green-blue. Use a sharp wire cutter or other blade so as to cut the ribbon cleanly without stretching or bending it.

For waterproof models: the silicone sealant must be stripped back about 1/8" from the cut point to expose the contacts. Then the contacts must be scraped clean of all debris and any circuit board varnish stripped to the point that the contacts appear like brushed gold (the blade of a knife held perpendicular to the ribbon, pushed down on the contacts and repeatedly scraped toward the end of the strip works well for this).

3. Ribbon Strip can be 2-wire (monochrome) or 4-wire (5050 SMD or RGB.)

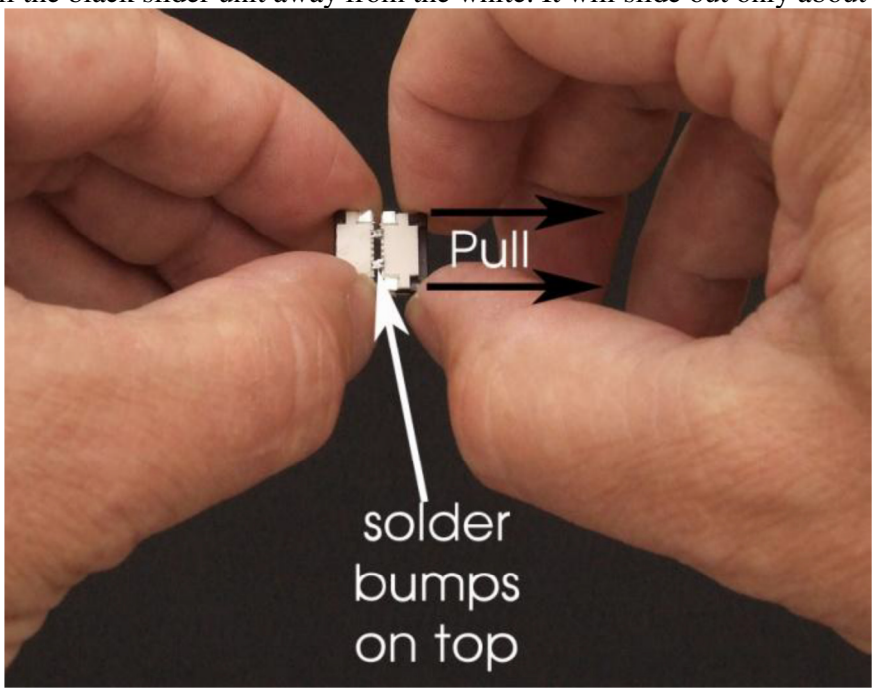
On 2-wire ribbon strip, there is a +12 Volt and a -12 Volt trace on the ribbon, clearly marked. Observe correct polarity or the diodes won't light. On RGB ribbon, there is a common anode (+12 volts,) and 3 cathodes (red, green

and blue.) They are also clearly marked on the ribbon. In the unlikely event you happen to have a very short ribbon where the markings don't appear, the common trace looks different from the other 3 in that it doesn't go directly to the LED.

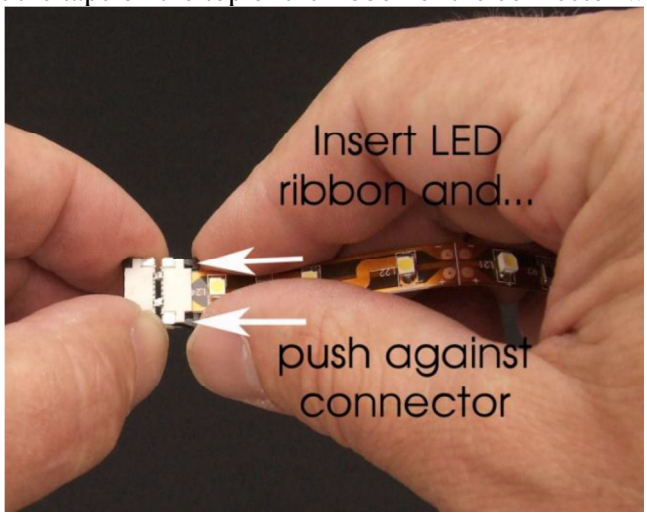
4. Ribbon strip connectors can be ribbon-to-ribbon or ribbon-to-cable for connecting ribbon to your power supply or controller (see below). Use the splice connector if you make a cutting mistake or want to join two reels. If you accidentally cut the ribbon strip between cutting marks instead of on the cutting marks, you've ruined that short segment and will need to cut on either side of your errant cut to restore functionality.

5. For the connectors to work, the solder bumps must be face up. It's hard to see in the picture below, but you can see easily when you examine a connector. If you can't figure out what we're talking about, just hook them up and if they don't work, turn them over. No harm.

6. Gently pull the black slider unit away from the white. It will slide out only about a millimeter.

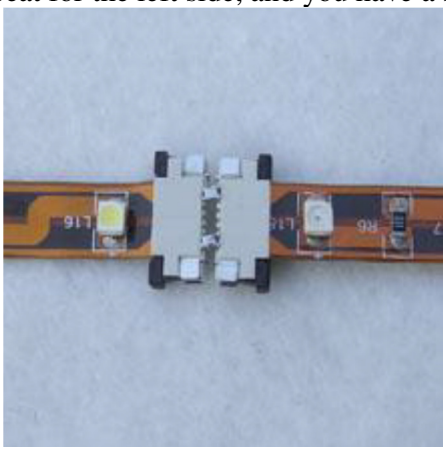


7. Gently slide the ribbon into the connector and then slide the black slider into the white connector body and you'll feel the connector grab the ribbon. It won't make an audible click, but it will feel like it clicks into place. Note that if the backing protecting the adhesive on the back of the ribbon has been removed, the ribbon will be a little thinner than usual, and the connector may not hold the ribbon. If that is the case, or if the connector won't grab the ribbon for any reason, just put a small piece of masking or other tape on the back of the ribbon to make it thicker so the connector can hold it. Do not put the tape on the top of the ribbon or the connector won't connect electrically.

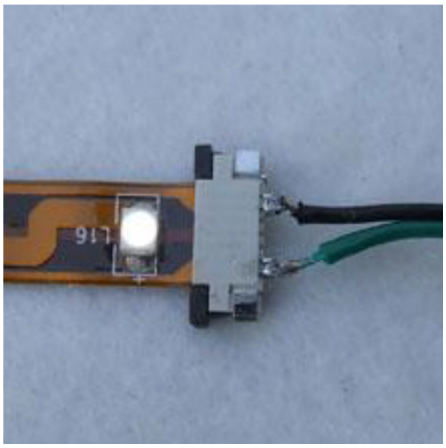


8. This connector will hold the ribbon and make a solid electrical connection as well. Note the position of the black slider, which has been pushed to the left into the white piece.

9. Repeat for the left side, and you have a splice:



10. Here's the connected 2-wire ribbon-to-cable connector:



11. The 4-wire connectors work the same way: