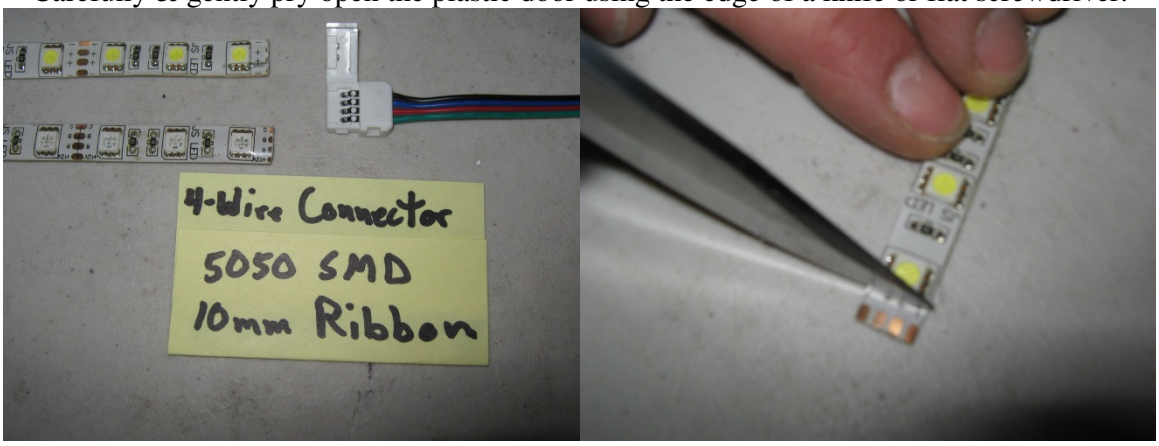
Ribbon Strip C10 Connector Instructions

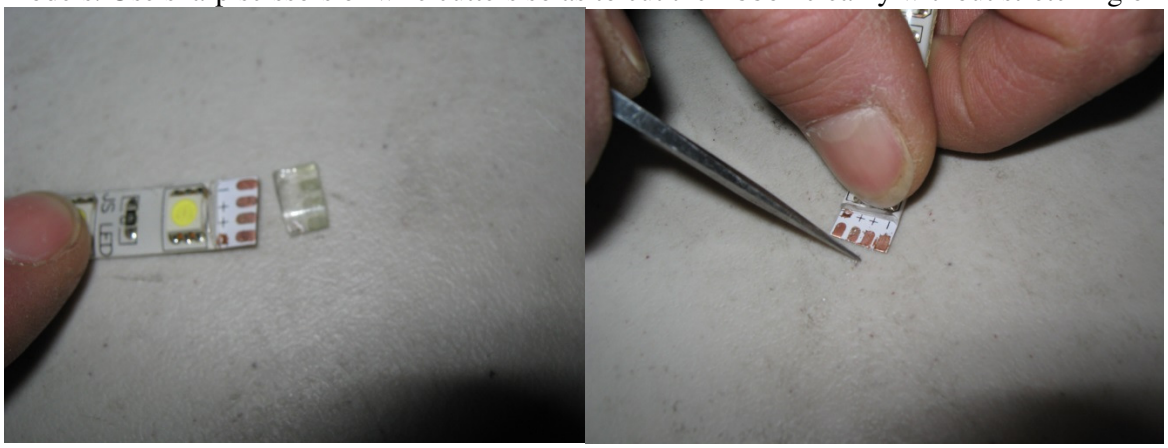
These plastic 1-door connectors (for 10mm ribbon) eliminate the need to solder.
Carefully & gently pry open the plastic door using the edge of a knife or flat screwdriver.



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. Damaged sections may be cut out and spliced.

2. Ribbon strips may be cut ONLY directly on the lines with images of scissors, on the golden contacts, or just to one side of the contacts (as seen below). The contacts/scissor marks are located about every 2" for most models. Use sharp scissors or wire cutters so as to cut the ribbon cleanly without stretching or bending it.



For waterproof models: the silicone sealant must be stripped back about 1/4" from the cut point to expose the contacts and allow the plastic door to close without getting caught on the remaining silicone. 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). Avoid over-stripping or damage to circuits.

3. Illustrations in this guide are for 4-contact (5050 SMD or RGB) ribbon strips using 4-wire connectors.

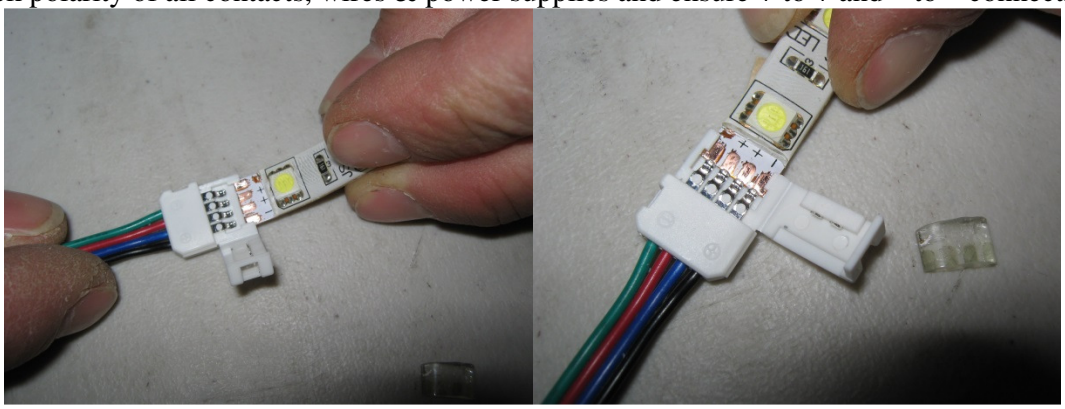
On 4-contact 5050SMD ribbon strips, there are a (2) +12 Volt and (2) -12 Volt traces on the ribbon, clearly marked. Observe correct polarity or the diodes won't light. On RGB ribbon, there is a common anode (+12 volts,) and 3 cathodes (red, green and blue.) They are also clearly marked on the ribbon. 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.

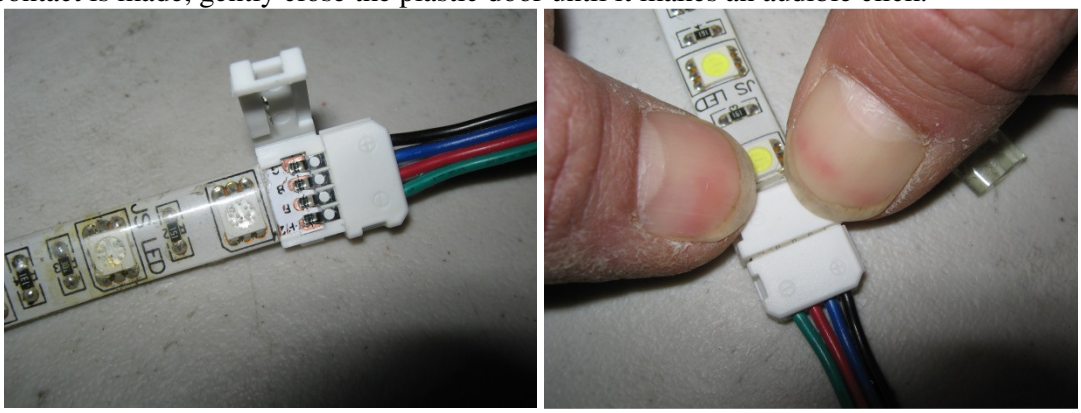
4. Ribbon strip connectors can be ribbon-to-ribbon or ribbon-to-cable for connecting ribbon to your power supply, controller (see below) or to another ribbon with wires. Splice connectors can be used to repair a cutting mistake or if you want to join two reels. If you accidentally cut the ribbon strip between cutting marks instead of on the marks, that segment is ruined and will need to be cut on either side of the errant cut & spliced to restore functionality.

5. For the connectors to work, the gold contacts must be face up. Fold back the 3M glue protector about ¼" & slide the circuit board into the slots of the connector & then under the contact hold downs. Note: if you have difficulty getting the board to slide all the way under the hold downs, gently (and barely!) raise the end of each hold down, less than 0.25mm, and try again. You should test the contact efficacy by connecting to a 12VDC power source.

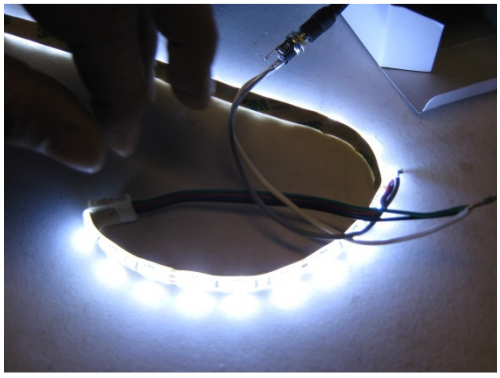
6. If the LEDs do not light, try sliding the ribbon forward & back a bit with the power applied and/or try closing the plastic door to ensure the contact hold downs are touching the contacts & watch for light to come on.
Check polarity of all contacts, wires & power supplies and ensure + to + and – to – connections.



7. Once good contact is made, gently close the plastic door until it makes an audible click.



8. This connector will hold the ribbon and make a solid electrical connection as well. Check to be sure the ribbon is tightly secured by **gently** tugging it to make sure it doesn't pull out easily & LEDs still light.
Note: For outdoor locations, a small amount of clear silicone may be applied around all the connector seams to ensure waterproof connections.



9. If splicing with 2-sided connector (as seen below), repeat for the other side and you will have a splice: