- 4. Design Automatic led Diwali Lights (consisting of 6 Led's) such that it only works during night and can be toggled with switch.
- a. Pattern 1 led blinks with a frequency of 500 m'sec
- b. Pattern 2- led blinks with a frequency of 1 sec

Blinking LED Circuit with Schematics and Explanation

The blinking LED circuit is like the electronics version of the "Hello World"-program. It's a simple electronic circuit that gives you a visual cue if it works. It was the first circuit I ever built, and it felt GREAT!

The goal is to make a <u>Light Emitting Diode (LED)</u> blink.

Three Different Ways To Build A Blinking LED Circuit

There are several ways of making a blinking LED circuit. You can make one using relays. You can make one using transistors. Or you can make one using components like an inverter, a 555 Timer or a microcontroller.

I'm going to show you three ways to build a blinking LED circuit using

When the relay coil has power, the switch will disconnect the power from the electromagnet and connect the power to the light bulb instead so that it will light up.

But when the relay no longer has power, it will switch back and turn off the power from the light bulb and give power back to the electromagnet again.

Then the cycle starts over.

The problem with the circuit above is that it will switch so fast that you won't actually see the light blink.

To solve this problem you can introduce a time-delay using a <u>resistor</u> and a <u>capacitor</u>.

When you apply power to the above circuit, the battery starts charging the capacitor through resistor R2.

After a moment, the relay coil pulls the relay into the other position.

This makes the LED turn ON.

Because the capacitor now is charged, it will hold the relay in this position. But the capacitor only has enough energy to keep the electromagnet in the relay powered for a little bit before it's empty (or discharged).

When the capacitor is out of energy, the relay goes back into its original state and turns the LED OFF again.

Then the cycle repeats itself.

The circuit for blinking an LED using transistors is called an *Astable Multivibrator*.

To understand this circuit you need to know how voltages and currents behave around resistors, capacitors and <u>diodes</u> (which is something you can learn in <u>Ohmify</u>).

But, here's the overview of what happens:

The two capacitors C1 and C2 will alternate between being charged and discharged and thereby turning the transistors ON and OFF. When a transistor is ON it allows current to flow through it so that the LED above it will light up.

I find this java applet really helpful in understanding how this circuit works.

This is probably the easiest blinking LED circuit when it comes to number of components: You only need three components for the blinking part!

But you need the resistor and LED to be blinked too of course.

An inverter is a logical component that outputs the opposite of what it gets in. If it gets a high voltage in, it gives a low voltage out. And vice versa.

A high voltage is a voltage close to the supply voltage. A low voltage is a voltage close to zero volts.

In the circuit diagram you can see that the output of the inverter (U1) is connected back to the input with a resistor. This means that if there's a high voltage on the input, the output will be low. But since the output is connected back to the input, the input will be low. Now that the input is low, the output will be high. That means the input will be high again, and so on...

So it will keep jumping between high and low.

To slow down the jumping back and forth, I've used a capacitor on the input of the inverter. The resistor R1 controls how much current that goes back to charge the capacitor on the input. The size of the resistor R1 and the capacitor C1 will, therefore, determine the blinking speed.

The inverter I used is a <u>Schmitt Trigger Inverter</u>. *Schmitt Trigger* just means that the threshold for switching from high to low is different from the threshold for switching from low to high.