

## Powered USB hubs, uses for the microscopist

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A long time ago I read Andrew Entwistle's 'An Inexpensive LED Cold Light' article ([Micscape June 2006](#)) with great interest. The only problem was that I wasn't confident in my skills with a soldering iron. I abandoned hope of a cheap LED cold light until I stumbled up a mains powered USB hub with two vertical USB ports.



Simply plug in two goose neck USB lights and you have a simple cold light for the microscope.



As the Hub has a number of ports, I turned to the many USB peripherals that I seemed to get each Xmas and found a USB mug warmer.



This little hot plate is supposed to keep your coffee warm but it never seemed to be hot enough. However it kicks out approximately 45<sup>0C</sup>, perfect for glycerine jelly mountants!



**Footnote:**

The USB gooseneck light guides are made by e.g. Konig and available from eg Amazon UK for ca £2 each.

The Belkin hub illustrated with vertical ports is model F5U237QEA for ca £17+ from various outlets. Other makers may have comparable models.

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