

## Re: Rotating electrical contact – solution?

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.basics/2007-10/msg01249.html>

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- *From:* default <default@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Wed, 31 Oct 2007 13:07:13 -0500
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On Wed, 31 Oct 2007 15:29:33 -0000, beatbox <downlode@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

Hi all,

Sorry if this may be more of an engineering question, but maybe someone here has some experience of this.

I am making a toy for my son. There is a small motor which drives a propeller, which makes part of the toy spin. The motor is mounted on this spinning part. The power source cannot be mounted on this part. So I need to make an electrical contact between a spinning part and a static part. I am not sure how to do this reliably, and with the minimum of friction.

Any ideas?

Thanks

Build a slip ring or pair of them.

I made this kinetic wire sculpture that needed something like that. Small airplane with navigation lights and prop . . . the plane was supported with a #12 steel wire – I cut the terminations off of a 1/4" stereo phone jack and slid the works down over the steel wire (scrapping the "tip" and keeping the barrels and insulators). Put a couple of phosphor bronze wipers to make connections on the stationary part.

Real high current slip rings are a little harder. Cut rings from rigid copper tube or use straight couplings and slide them down over CPVC pipe – takes some effort but chucking the pipe in a drill press and using sandpaper to turn it down a little. Hardware stores carry DC motor brushes, hobby shops have rectangular brass tubing for building up brush holders.

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