

# Re: History of bulk electronic components suppliers

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- *From:* Lostgallifreyan <[no-one@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:no-one@xxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 11 Feb 2007 20:28:13 GMT
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Salmon Egg <[salmonegg@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:salmonegg@xxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in  
<news:C1F4A71F.614BA@salmonegg@xxxxxxxxxxxx>:

...it is virtually impossible to  
buy simple chemicals such as acids.

The UK is far more locked down than the US. While I could buy a small amount of H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> with a motorcycle battery, it is the ONLY way I can do it, a few tens of millilitres at a time with a waste of hard-to-recycle plastic and lead as waste.

Fortunately, a bit of invention (and good advice) got me the isopropanol and acetone I need for optics assembly cleaning. I gave up on the idea of home anodising because the few places that would sell what I needed are only allowed to sell complete kits here (at exorbitant prices). It's so ruthless that even these will go out of business very soon, once people realise they can never privately buy the acid needed to re-stock their original investment.

There are one or two chemical shops online in the UK, but they offer stuff almost exclusively useful to those who want to make explosives! I researched their names (and associated names found in conjunction) and found more than one forum of amateur chemists occasionally discussing them. The general consensus is that such sites are fronts designed to hook the stupid would-be bomber. Their owners certainly never answered any question of mine, which they would if they'd had any real intention and ability to sell the stuff.

We do live in increasingly paranoid times. I'm not sure how, or even IF, this can explain the lack of hobby electronics sales. Maybe it can. A lot of the public is becoming increasingly frightened of science in general.

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