

# Silly errors in design or A vendor gets embarrassed

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- *From:* "PeteS" <PeterSmith1954@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
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I'm taking a break from cleaning my mother's house (she fell and broke her hip so I have been here the last few days), so I thought I'd relate the latest vendor embarrassment.

One of my products is basically a very rugged XDA with 5.7" QVGA TFT and I'm moving to LED backlighting (from CCFL) for a number of reasons and a vendor came in with their latest and greatest offering.

Great price; ~£58 in 1k qty's for the TFT, controller (standard 33 way FFC interface) and LED backlights, but the designers bring out only a single power pair for the LEDs, which are arranged as 3 parallel strings of 7 series white LEDs, and no control circuitry. That price is nearly half the closest competition, incidentally.

This, of course, can easily lead to current hogging above hotspots, and did so *\*even on their own demo unit\**. One end of the display was noticeably brighter than the rest of the screen, probably because the processor and/or power supply for the unit sits in that area. One might have expected their on demo unit to be 'tweaked' for such things, at least. The rep went quite pink when I opinted it out ;)

I explained to the rep that the best way is to bring out all 3 series power separately (as Kyocera does) so they can all be separately regulated to ensure equal current (and therefore equal light) from each chain. Of course, with each string being separately powered (A and K) it's pretty simple to do balancing if the strings aren't that well matched.

I won't name the vendor (yet) as they are not in production and I'll see if they bring out a 6 wire power interface for the LEDs. Gotta give them a chance to rectify it.

I found it amusing that such a basic piece of design was implemented so crappily.

Cheers

PeteS [posting via google for a few days]

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