

# Concrete Lightbulb Wall Hook

by [whamodyne](#) on July 13, 2007

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## Intro: Concrete Lightbulb Wall Hook

This is how to make an excellent excuse for driving a lag bolt into your wall, the Concrete Lightbulb Wall Hook. Functional yet stylish, it gives a nice industrial design feel wherever you mount it.

Last winter after breaking out the serious cold weather gear, I found myself fighting the coat rack next to the front door. It was, to put it bluntly, failing miserably. Tipping over, breaking off, it was a mess. I swore before the next winter I would drive some serious hooks into the wall that would handle all my heavy overcoat needs. I just haven't seen any kickass hooks yet that I liked enough to justify making serious holes in my walls.

Cut to the last few months. As mentioned in my blog ([here](#), [here](#), and [here](#)) I've been playing around, trying to make a concrete lightbulb. Why? Because I find the contrast of blending a new material like concrete in an everyday shape like a lightbulb to be a great design element. So while messing around with these guys, I realized this would be a great excuse to drive lag bolts into my wall for hooks. By embedding a lag bolt into the concrete lightbulb, I could make a wall hook that was useful enough to handle anything I wanted to hang off it. Thus this project was born.

This is an entry in the Etsy/Instructables SewUseful Contest, so if you love this idea but don't want to make it yourself, not to worry! I have them for sale in my [Etsy Shop](#). Click [here](#) to order yours today! Yes, it's an entry into a sewing contest without any sewing. Sometimes you just gotta.

Check out my other entry into the SewUseful Contest (also without sewing!) - "[Big Brass Ones](#)"



## step 1: Tools and Materials

You will need a work area where a little sand and concrete mix or glass shards is not an issue. Make sure you have a small brush and dustpan available at all times. Normally you wait till the end to shatter the lightbulb, but it can happen at any point in this process. So be ready for cleanup from the very start.

### TOOLS:

- Small pair of pliers
- small pair of wirecutters
- small screwdriver
- carbide scribe. You can use something like an awl or even a long skinny nail, but I found my trusty old scribe to be invaluable in this.
- plastic tub to mix the concrete in. I used an empty five pound tub of spreadable margarine.
- a scrap of wood to mix the concrete with. You could use an old wooden spoon or something like that if needed.
- plastic spoon to put the concrete mix into the lightbulb.
- A measuring cup and measuring spoons for adding the correct amount of concrete mix and water.
- a toothbrush you won't be using for your teeth anymore.
- coffee stirrer and plastic cups you "borrowed" from Starbucks
- Gloves and safety glasses. A must because the glass bulb often breaks and little shards go flying in all directions, including straight at your eyes.
- Misc. items like Sharpies, some rags, etc.

### MATERIALS:

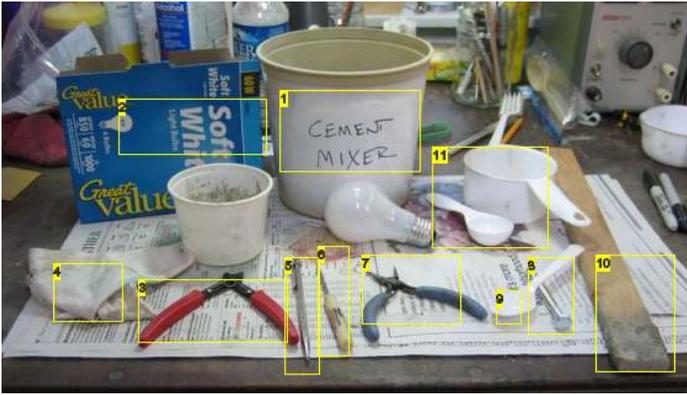
"Concrete" is a mix of cement, water and aggregates. My research showed that a sand mix, AKA mortar mix, is good when using a smooth surfaced mold like the inside of a lightbulb. It gives a very high shine when cured. A sand mix is different from your generic concrete in that the aggregates doesn't have any gravel, just various sizes of sand. I decided to do it with mortar mix instead of your standard bag of generic concrete.

- Quikrete Mortar mix. I got the ten pound bag at the local home improvement store for \$2. This is enough to do over a dozen lightbulbs. I could have purchased the 60 pound bag for \$7 at a much lower cost/volume, but this project really doesn't need that much.

- Lightbulbs. Just the cheapest standard sized incandescent lightbulbs you can find. I got mine at Walmart. A pack of four for 77 cents. Can't beat that with a stick.

- Water. You'll need about 4 tablespoons worth. I kept a bottle of water nearby on the bench and refilled it from the tap when needed.

- Lag Bolt. I'm using a 5/16" lag bolt, 3.5" long. 5/16" was the largest sized lag bolt I could fit into the lightbulb without cutting off the head. I didn't want to do that because the head gives the bolt a lot of grip when embedded in the concrete. With a lag bolt 5/16" in diameter, I can drill in the wall a 1/4" hole to get a good balance between grip and ease of installing. In other words, it turns easily into the wall yet holds really well.



#### Image Notes

1. tub from 5 pounds of spreadable margarine. Labeled it so I didn't forget this is what it's for and use it to store something else.
2. cheap lightbulbs
3. small wirecutters
4. rags are always handy
5. The Carbide Scribe
6. small screwdriver
7. pliers
8. 5/16", 3.5" long lag bolt
9. plastic spoon
10. scrap wood to mix the concrete with
11. measuring cup and spoon



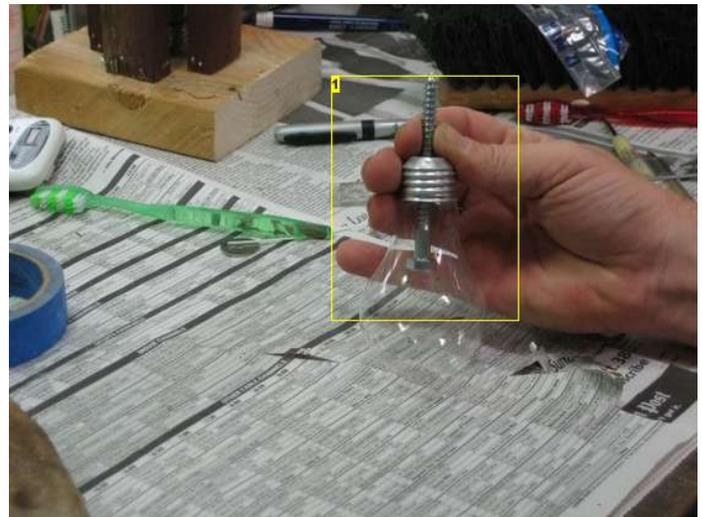
#### Image Notes

1. I got the 10 pound bag of this for \$2 at Lowes. 60 pounds is just way too much.



#### Image Notes

1. A twelve pack of cheap toothbrushes from the dollar store. Every workbench should have a set of these.



#### Image Notes

1. A 5/16" lag bolt, 3.5" long will have plenty of grip for the concrete to grab onto. Especially without cutting off the head.

## step 2: Hollow out the light bulb

In the beginning I found the directions at [TeamDroid](#) to be a great help on how to do this. Now that I've done it over a dozen times it's routine. With practice this becomes quick and simple. There is another instructable describing how to hollow out a lightbulb [here](#) to get another perspective on it. Teamdroid linked to a GE tech spec on your standard bulb [here](#).

A lot of the time you are poking around inside the lightbulb trying to break off the internal glass bits. Do this over a trashcan and often shake the lightbulb out over the trashcan to get rid of the glass shards. Wear safety glasses at all times. More than once some glass flew up towards my face when I was doing this.

First, grip the metal circle with a blob of solder in the middle at the bottom of the lightbulb with your pliers and gently pry it up from the dark purple glass insulator. This is pulling a wire in the middle that you want to break, so just pull it off.

Once that is done, take your carbide scribe and over a trash can, pry into the hole you just made in the purple glass insulator and break up that purple glass. You want to remove all the purple glass insulator from the lightbulb body. I use the scribe to start some cracks and lift off a section of it, then I follow up with the screwdriver to get the rest. Turn the lightbulb upside down and shake out all the glass bits that have fallen inside.

Inside there is a small glass tube that pokes up into the glass insulator. You might or might not have already broken that off by now. If not, just lever the screwdriver against it until it snaps loose. Empty into the trashcan.

Now you have a hole in the bottom of the lightbulb. At this point I take my pliers and gently bend over the metal tabs on the inside of the hole so there is no "lip" on the inside. Later when you have broken up the rest of the inside pieces, there isn't anywhere for the bits to catch and stay in the lightbulb when you shake it out.

There should be a wire visible inside that's soldered to the side of the metal screw piece. Take your wire cutters and cut the wire as close to the side of the bulb as possible.

Now, the inside has a glass cylinder you need to break off and clean up the edges to finish the job. Take your scribe or screwdriver and put it down into the lightbulb until it meets resistance. Tap it gently until something breaks. Then using the screwdriver, lever against the side of the lightbulb to clean out whatever remaining glass bits are left. You want the neck of the lightbulb to be clear from the hole all the way down the body. Turn the bulb over and shake it out one more time to get rid of the last of the internal glass pieces floating loose.

Take a toothbrush and while dry, push it into the lightbulb and start loosening up the dry white powder. Especially in the neck of the bulb. Don't worry if you can't get the stuff the toothbrush can't reach at this point. I found the bulb cleans out easier if you do loosen up the white powder in the neck before it gets wet.

Now take it over to the sink and add a little soap and water. Scrub around with the toothbrush and shake the bulb to get the water everywhere. Pull out the toothbrush and then wash out the soapy water from the bulb. At this point it's all nice and clean inside without any soapy residue. Set it aside to dry out. Now it's time to mix up the concrete.



### Image Notes

1. Prying up one edge of the metal circle with the blob of solder in it at the end of the bulb



### Image Notes

1. Pulling up the edge. Just rip that sucker right off.



**Image Notes**

1. Prying up the purple glass insulator pieces.



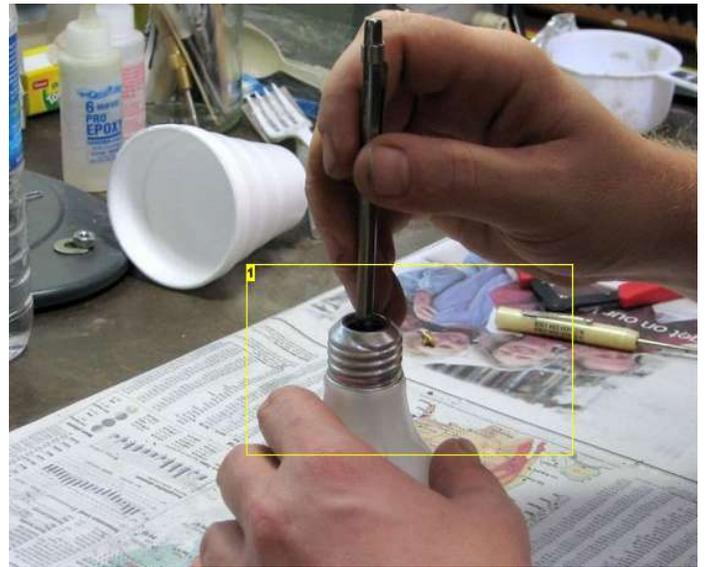
**Image Notes**

1. Folding over those metal tabs on the inside of the lightbulb. This removes a "lip" that broken glass bits can hide in.



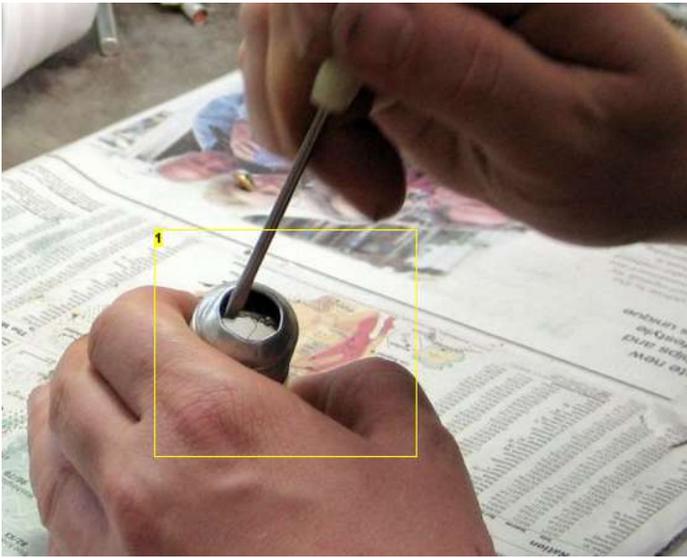
**Image Notes**

1. Some of the purple glass insulator has been removed. Take the rest out with the screwdriver.



**Image Notes**

1. Breaking the last glass cylinder inside the bulb by pushing down with the scribe until something breaks.



**Image Notes**

1. Cleaning up the last bits of glass that could block the hole on the inside of the bulb



**Image Notes**

1. All the internal parts have been removed and the glass bits shaken out. Now to clean out the white powder.



**Image Notes**

1. The white powder (kaolin clay) in the neck is harder to clean if you wet it first, so I loosen it up with the toothbrush when dry.



**Image Notes**

1. Doing the final cleaning. All the white powder residue should be removed by now.



**Image Notes**

1. A hollowed out, cleaned and rinsed bulb. Set it aside to dry.

### step 3: Mix up the Concrete

This is the part that's more art than science. I've found that in the small batches this project calls for, it's very easy to add too much or too little water to the mix. When you are mixing an entire sixty pound bag of concrete, being off a teaspoon on the water doesn't matter that much. When you are mixing up just a cup of concrete, that teaspoon starts to matter.

Mortar mix when cured in a glass mold like we are using gives a very nice gloss surface. The lower the amount of water you use, the smoother and like glass the surface is, and the stronger the resulting cured concrete is. However, the lower the amount of water you use, the harder it is to have it fill in the gaps on the sides and it leaves lots of holes and divots. It's getting the mix liquid enough to spread out but not too liquid that it loses its strength is one of the issues on the water to dry mix ratio. Finding the correct compromise between these two issues is really a matter of practice and personal taste, I would suggest you play around with it in multiple bulbs if you are interested in getting the best result you can.

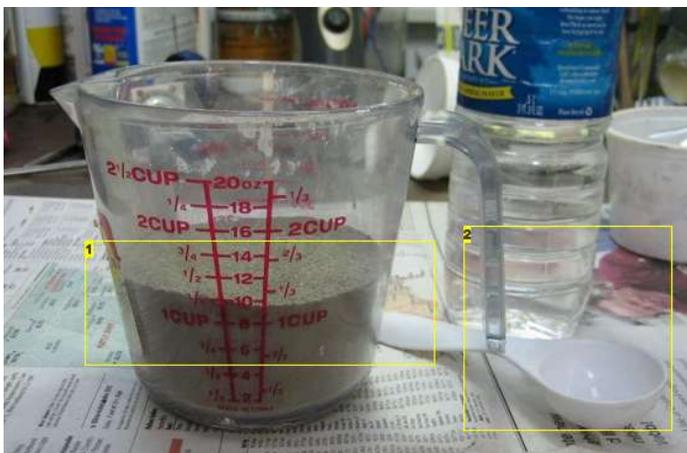
The ratio I've found works well is about 1.25 cups of the mortar mix and a hair under four tablespoons of water. So measure out a little under four tablespoons of water and put that into your plastic tub. This is more mortar mix than you need to fill a lightbulb, but there is always some spillage and trying to reduce the amount means even more accuracy on the water measurement. This is a good place to start.

Slowly mix in the mortar mix a little at a time. Let a little bit get wet, then a little more, then a little more while stirring the whole thing. It's a bit like making biscuit dough at this level, but your pouring the dry into the wet instead of the other way around. The consistency should be good enough that the mortar mix wants to stick together in one large clump, but it isn't sopping wet. If you feel you need to add more water or mortar mix to get it correct, then go for it. Just do it a little bit at a time. A small amount of either material make a large impact at this point.

Once it's at a consistency you like, keep stirring nice and slow for a few minutes. You want everything to be thoroughly wetted as much as possible.

**Important!** At this moment the clock starts and you have 30 to 45 minutes to finish the lightbulb before the mortar mix starts to harden up.

Once you have thoroughly mixed up the mortar mix, bring out the lightbulb and start filling it up.



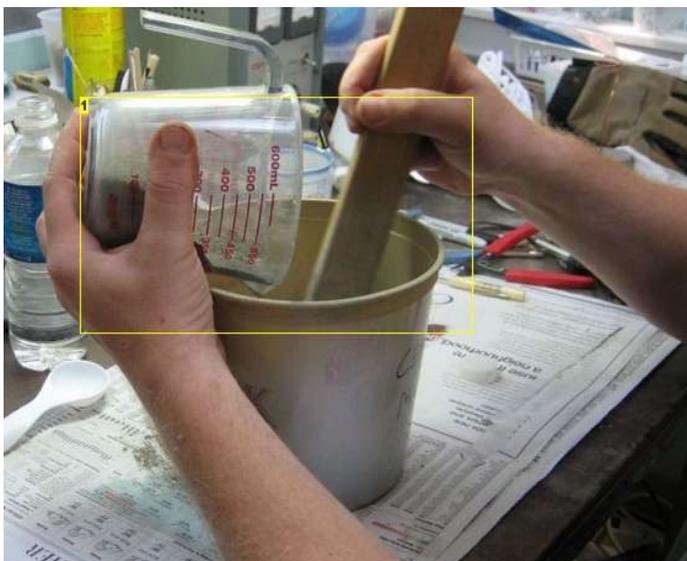
#### Image Notes

1. A cup and a quarter of the mortar mix ready to be mixed up.
2. Water and tablespoon at the ready.



#### Image Notes

1. Add a bit under four tablespoons to your tub



#### Image Notes



1. Slowly pour in the dry mortar mix to the water while stirring.

**Image Notes**

1. Starting to get there. It's just reaching the point where it wants to clump up in one large ball



**Image Notes**

1. Yum. Bake at 375 degrees for 12 minutes... wait, sorry, wrong instructable.

**step 4: Start filling up the lightbulb with the mortar mix.**

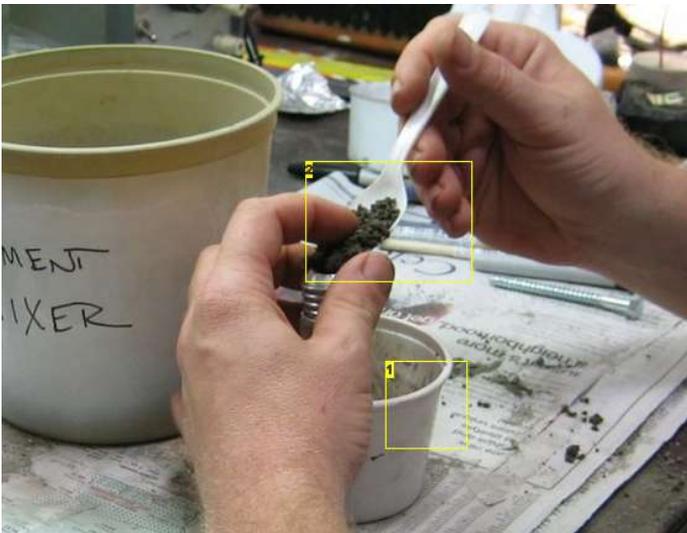
You are working on a time limit at this point as the mortar mix starts to set. If you can get it all done in thirty minutes or so it should be fine.

Put your lightbulb into a small plastic tub with the hole pointing upwards. When you are adding the mix there is always spillage and you don't want that all over your work area. I put a little bit of sand in the bottom so it will stay straight early on, once you add a few spoonfuls of the mortar mix it stands up straight on it's own.

Take a plastic spoon and scoop up a level amount of the wet mortar mix. Holding the end of the spoon over the hole in the lightbulb, use your finger on the other hand to push it down into the hole. Some will spill over the edges of the hole, that's ok. You made almost twice the volume of mortar mix as will go into the lightbulb.

After four or five spoonfuls into the lightbulb, you want to vibrate it so the mortar mix liquefies and spreads out evenly on the inside. Shake it back and forth to make it liquefy. If there is an air bubble visible on the side that just won't fill in no matter how you shake, tap it repeatedly with your fingertip. moves the the bubble up and the liquid towards the tapping.

Do these steps, a handful of scoops and then much shaking and taping to fill in the gaps and make it all liquid like until you reach half way up the neck of the bulb. At that point it's time to add the lag bolt.



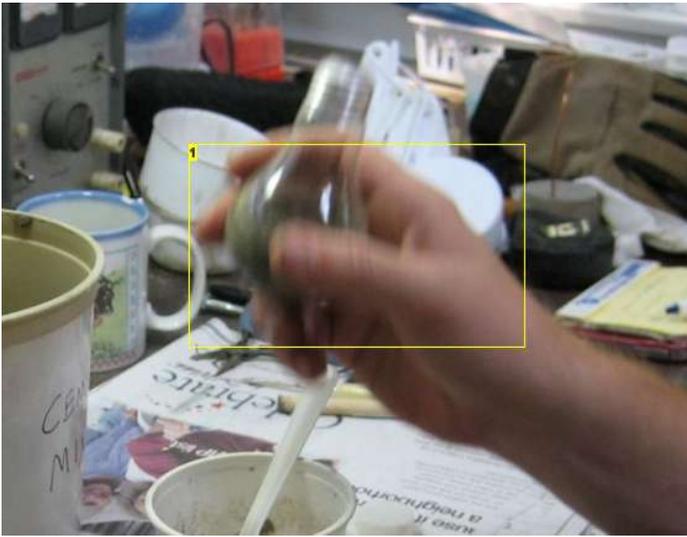
**Image Notes**

1. small plastic tub to catch the spillage  
2. A scoop of the wet mix in the plastic spoon, using your other hand to feed it into the lightbulb



**Image Notes**

1. This is before any shaking - the mix needs to be vibrated and tapped to spread out and coat the inside of the bulb.



**Image Notes**

1. Whole lot of shaking going on. You are doing a lot of this and tapping the sides with your fingers to fill in air pockets and make it liquefy inside the bulb.



**Image Notes**

1. after shaking and tapping, it's starting to liquefy and spread out.



**Image Notes**

1. Getting there. At this point it's time to add the lag bolt to the lightbulb.

**step 5: Put in the lag bolt and finish up adding the mortar mix.**

Before putting in the lag bolt, mark off with a sharpie where 1.5" is from the pointy end so you know how far to push it down.

Put the lag bolt into the mortar mix. Because the lightbulb shape has some undercutting with the mold, the mortar mix wants to clump up in the middle of the bulb and not grip the sides. You can use the head of the lag bolt to tap down the pile in the middle of the bulb so it starts filling in all the gaps.

Keep adding mortar mix around the lag bolt to fill it up. Holding the lag bolt firmly to make sure it does not rattle, keep shaking the bulb and tapping the sides to fill in gaps and liquefy the mortar mix.

Take a coffee stirrer you "borrowed" from Starbucks and use that to tap down the mortar mix. You want to keep adding the mix, tamp and fill, tamp and fill. Finally the entire bulb is all done and you are tamping on the top. You want the mortar mix to be level with the top of the hole but not sticking out in a bulge.

When you are all done, put the lightbulb with the lag bolt pointing up in a spare plastic cup. The ones I used were also borrowed from Starbucks. Take a rag and clean up the metal threaded part of the lightbulb as well as you can - you don't want the mortar mix drying on it.

Set this to the side for at least 72 hours to let the mortar mix cure. I normally write the date it was made on the glass with a Sharpie so I can keep track.



#### Image Notes

1. Adding wet mortar mix around the lag bolt.



#### Image Notes

1. tap it down with a coffee stirrer you borrow from Starbucks. You can always give it back to them when you are done.



#### Image Notes

1. It's all tamped down and shaken and looks like the sides are filled. The threaded metal part of the bulb has been cleaned off with a rag. Set this aside for at least 72 hours to let the mortar mix cure.

### step 6: Crack the lightbulb

Let the mortar mix cure for at least 72 hours. A few days more is a good thing.

This is the part where you are breaking up the lightbulb glass into little bits and pieces **on purpose** .

Glass will be flying in all directions, wear safety glasses and at least one glove (like in the pictures) at all times!

Over a trash can, hold the bulb in one hand that has a glove on it. I've tried to use gloves on both hands at this stage and didn't have the fine control I wanted. You might be able to do it.

Taking a hard metal object, start striking the side of the lightbulb. I'm using my carbide scribe. The glass will start to crack and form spider web fractures. Keep hitting. Eventually small pieces will fall and/or fly off of the bulb. When you have formed a good number of cracks around the bulb, take a toothbrush and scrub it vigorously over the entire bulb. . This will brush into the trashcan any glass grit or loose pieces.

Then take your carbide scribe (or awl or sharp nail) and start to pry up the edges of the glass left on the bulb. Some of it will come off in large chunks, some of it will come off a little piece at a time. Try to aim for the trashcan but know that it won't all go in there, some of it will pop up and go in any direction. If a large piece of glass doesn't want to come up and doesn't have any cracks in it, beat it with the metal object some more to create the spider web. Every so often take the toothbrush and rub down the lightbulb to get rid of any ground in glass or loose bits.

When all the glass has been removed from the lightbulb, take your scribe and carefully go around the neck of the bulb where the metal met the glass. Make sure there  
<http://www.instructables.com/id/Concrete-Lightbulb-Wall-Hook/>

are no loose glass shards under the lip of the metal. Shake and tap the bulb to see what floats loose. When you are done, take a shop brush and run it over the entire bulb one more time to get any glass grit or loose pieces out of the holes in the concrete.

It's done! The mortar mix often leaves pits and holes even with all that shaking and tapping you did, but I think it adds a bit of character to the whole thing and makes each one you do unique. Feel the glossy smooth glass finish on the bulb and how it reflects the light. Now it's time to mount it!



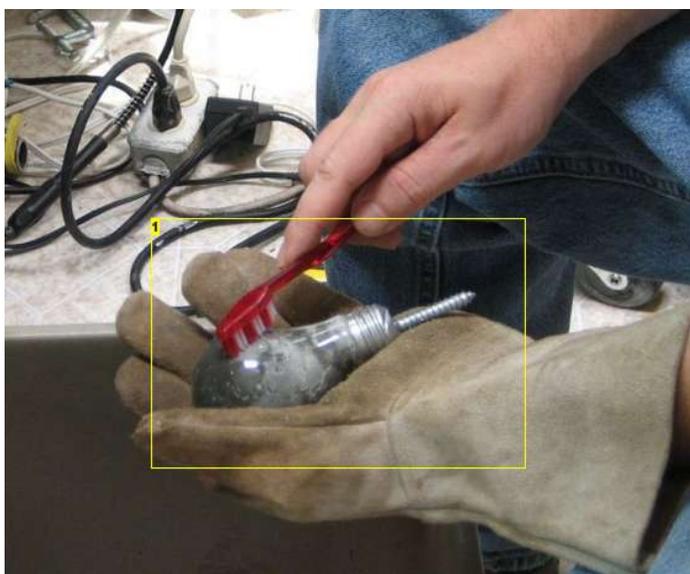
**Image Notes**

1. Tapping the lightbulb over a trashcan to create cracks and get some of the glass to fall off the bulb. This is the really dangerous step so be careful



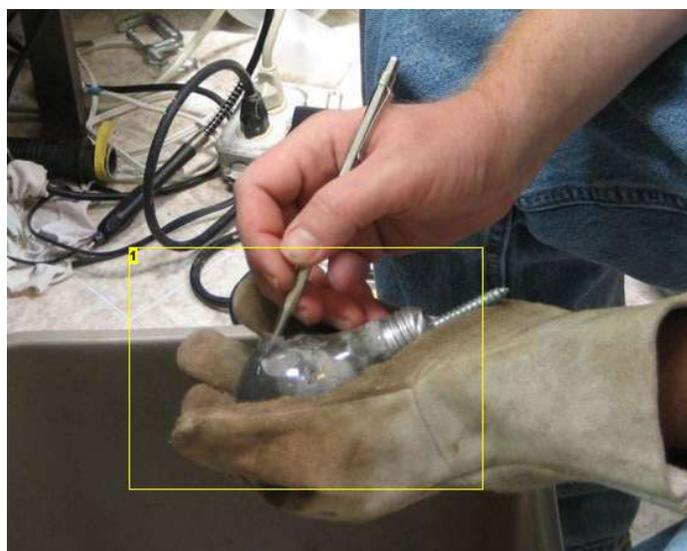
**Image Notes**

1. The bulb after much whacking



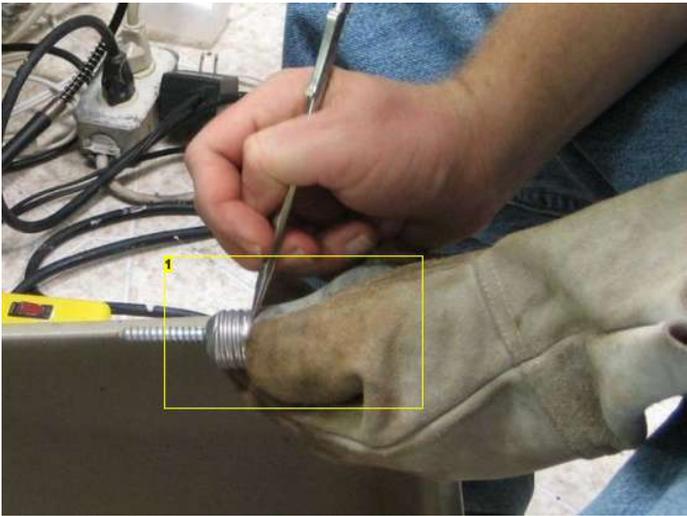
**Image Notes**

1. Brushing it off to get all the loose glass and especially glass grit off the bulb and into the trash can



**Image Notes**

1. Prying off the glass on the bulb piece by piece with the carbide scribe. It likes to fly off sometimes so be careful.



**Image Notes**

1. Cleaning up the neck of the bulb where the metal meets the glass. Want to make sure there is no glass showing or that could come loose later.



**Image Notes**

1. Brushing the whole thing down with the shop brush to get out the last of the debris.



**Image Notes**

1. It's done! Look at the high gloss smooth finish on that sucker. The holes give it character.



**Image Notes**

1. All set with a very nice surface



**Image Notes**

1. A bit of a crater, but it adds character

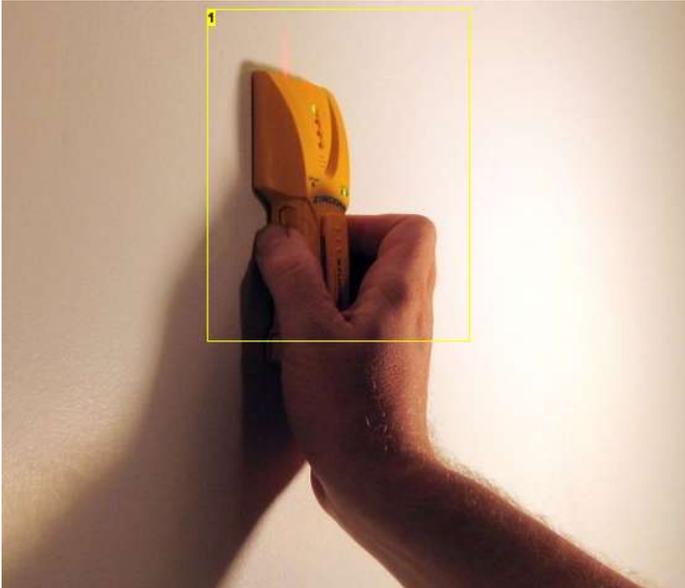


**Image Notes**  
1. Smooth as glass.

### **step 7: Mount it on the wall**

Now that you have this killer Concrete Lightbulb Wall Hook, it's time to mount it into the wall. The steps here are fairly simple.

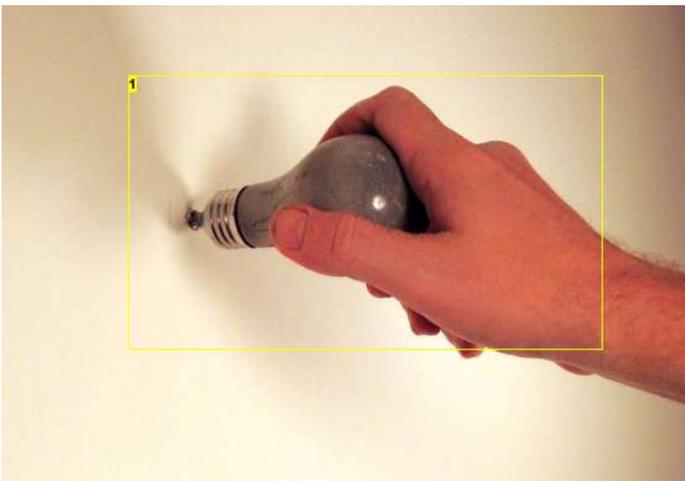
- 1) Find the stud. This wants a wood stud in the wall. There are multiple ways to find a wood stud, I'm using a cheapie stud finder.
- 2) Drill the hole. Using a 1/4" drill bit, drill a hole 1.5" deep into the wall.
- 3) Screw it in. The hole is big enough that you can can screw it in, but the bite is good enough that it can hold just about anything you want to hang off it. Heavy overcoats, small children, whatever strikes your fancy.
- 4) Hang your hat. Or you could use it as a hat hook. It's all good.



**Image Notes**  
1. There be a stud here somewhere



**Image Notes**  
1. Drilling the hole. The blue tape is the depth stop at 1.5"



**Image Notes**  
1. Just hand screw it in.



**Image Notes**  
1. Hang your hat. Show off my pride for my beloved Oakland A's.

## Related Instructables



**Concrete guitar stand** (slideshow) by Flark



**1,000 Year Doghouse** by dome\_head



**Concrete** by Popular Mechanics



**Concrete Fingerboard Skate Park** by peterthomsen



**10\$ DIY "Kettle Bell"** by actsofsubterfuge



**concrete lamp** by hands\_on



**Cement Wallet** by turkey tek



**How to make a nice cement patio** by bassman76jazz

## Comments

50 comments

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**Ocere** says:

You can also boil a pot of water, and then leave the base of the bulb in it until the glue softens, then you can just pull the entire screw assembly out of it!

May 5, 2009. 3:59 AM [REPLY](#)



**phyzome** says:

Have you done this personally? I've been looking for a way to get the metal assembly off intact.

Nov 19, 2009. 8:38 PM [REPLY](#)



**forlack** says:

Depending on your mix you could crack the bulb after 24 hours and then if you wanted extra strength keep it wet for 3-7days. This will ensure that there is enough water for the cement to continue to hydrate. Unless you are hanging some really heavy things though 24 hours is most likely sufficient. 3 day curing is about 50% 28 day curing strength. 7 days is 70% of 28 day curing. These are just some rules of thumb.

Nov 14, 2009. 2:03 AM [REPLY](#)



**higherlife** says:

Don't try this with those energy efficient bulbs. If they break, it leaks mercury and you have to leave your house or at least fifteen minutes.

Mar 10, 2009. 9:32 AM [REPLY](#)



**Frogz** says:

please people, dont listen to higher life about mercury leaving for 15 minutes i dont know if the energy 1s contain it but either way, mercury is a heavy metal, just carefully remove it(brush it on to a piece of paper) and remove it from your house(dont ask me how to dispose of it as the epa doesnt like what i'd say) but i've been playing with mercury on and off my whole life and it hasnt hurt me although mercury poisoning is a real danger but leaving the house for 15 minutes will NOT do anything as to removing it, it will still be there when you get back

Nov 13, 2009. 1:03 PM [REPLY](#)



**higherlife** says:

I know there are warnings on the package I bought. I am concerned that people take extra care while tinkering. Sometime our enthusiasm overtakes our common sense. PLEASE, Don't be so non-chalant with your health or the health of others. I know on this website, that's like blasphemy or something. But, my motherly instincts often jump the gun for preventive measures.

Nov 13, 2009. 2:20 PM [REPLY](#)

All that aside, I think it is a fantastic project, though.



**Briguy9** says:

"if" they break? When you do this aren't you supposed to break it? I mean of course it's gonna leak mercury and you should leave your house but its gonna break anyway, right? Even with one of those bulbs I wouldn't use it because it would either look really cool or really bad in the end. Plus it would probably break much easier. No offence to you or anything.

Jul 5, 2009. 3:54 PM [REPLY](#)



**higherlife** says:

no offense taken. It just that I had mercury poisoning from those freakin bulbs. My neurological system went wacko for a while. We need to be careful.

Sep 6, 2009. 6:21 AM [REPLY](#)



**gez** says:

this kind of bulbs doesn't contain mercury. it think, your accident was because of fluorescent lamps. all of them contain freaky gases.

Sep 17, 2009. 5:48 AM [REPLY](#)

-and, even if you know what you're doing, while modifying this bulbs by breaking, you shouldn't handle them with bare hands. you should wear painting gloves at least. broken glass is too sharp, it can easily pierce through your hand.



**ANTQ NUT** says:  
I've always liked this instructable. Very inventive.  
Cheers, Antqnut

Nov 11, 2009. 8:18 PM [REPLY](#)



**zwebbo** says:  
Hey cool stuff, I like the idear  
Check this out. I mixed the mortar mix with some acryl color for a present.

Apr 11, 2009. 6:59 AM [REPLY](#)



**ANTQ NUT** says:  
EPIC! it kinda reminds me of a jaw breaker, but in a good way!  
great job!  
Cheers, Antqnut

Nov 11, 2009. 8:17 PM [REPLY](#)



**gooblaster** says:  
Woah! This looks cool

Jun 11, 2009. 8:15 AM [REPLY](#)



**epfarrice** says:  
how did you do this? is this tile grout? how did you 'swirl' the color, as opposed to a solid color.

May 25, 2009. 7:18 AM [REPLY](#)



**HeshBeatboxFill** says:  
that looks badass!

May 19, 2009. 12:09 PM [REPLY](#)



**ANTQ NUT** says:  
THATS COOL

May 18, 2009. 8:21 PM [REPLY](#)



**Greg Westwood** says:  
hi i made one of these and i it worked pretty well but i thought i needed a finishing touch so i painted it.

Jul 14, 2009. 2:16 AM [REPLY](#)



**ANTQ NUT** says:  
Woah Love it!

Nov 11, 2009. 8:16 PM [REPLY](#)

 **loofah3Thousnd** says: May 9, 2009. 4:24 PM [REPLY](#)  
I've attempted this 3 times now and every time I try it, the cement is never hardened. I crack open the bulb and the cement is not cured. What is the problem. Is there no air getting to it?

 **Valche** says: Sep 27, 2009. 3:16 PM [REPLY](#)  
"Is there no air getting to it?"  
Really? It's sealed in glass, lol.

 **Cubie2** says: Nov 11, 2009. 3:44 PM [REPLY](#)  
cement doesn't need air to dry... thats because it doesn't dry, it SETS. It will even set underwater... that's the beauty of it. I think you just need to wait longer- wait like a week and THEN crack it open.

 **david\_** says: May 17, 2009. 9:01 PM [REPLY](#)  
I believe the amount of water you use, type of cement, and humidity of where you are all determine how fast it sets. I know there is a quick-set cement that my pool guy used to install a rail in Phoenix that set super quick in the dry air. They said it takes a lot longer to set up in Cali because it is more humid. Maybe try a quick set, don't use too much water, and wait longer if it is humid.

 **3n16m4** says: Sep 24, 2009. 9:55 PM [REPLY](#)  
Have you tried rapidly heating and cooling the glass, to remove it? dropping a super-heated bulb into a bucket of ice water might eliminate a lot of the pain and time from the glass removal process.

 **Wawan Sragent** says: Sep 15, 2009. 1:12 AM [REPLY](#)  
Simple, smART and artistic for home stay...  
keep our earth green and smile...

 **Shane1163** says: Feb 27, 2009. 11:22 AM [REPLY](#)  
wow cool.. almost looks like a planet.. or a moon!

 **neuromonkey** says: Mar 5, 2009. 8:32 AM [REPLY](#)  
*That's no moon!*

 **Spaceman-Spliff** says: Apr 11, 2009. 11:11 AM [REPLY](#)  
*...It's a space station!*

 **baslug** says: Aug 30, 2009. 10:05 AM [REPLY](#)  
*it's a trap!!*

 **arvin dhimalayan** says: Aug 29, 2009. 6:12 AM [REPLY](#)  
nice ,i like it

 **gharo** says: Jul 19, 2009. 10:08 AM [REPLY](#)  
my favorite things to do (i use plaster)but what i found it helpfull to vaccum the air out of the bulb i use my fridge compressor that i extracted ot of a used fridge found it on the street,also if u made the mix inside the bulb by filling it with water then add concrete to saturation(without mixing) u get a marble surface with no bubbles.

 **Greg Westwood** says: Jul 14, 2009. 2:18 AM [REPLY](#)  
hi i made one of these but it thought it needed a finishing touch,so i painted it.



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 **jonhye** says: Jul 8, 2009. 12:09 PM [REPLY](#)  
pfffffffff!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!estaria mejor hecho si le pones un led dentro!!!!!!!!

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 **newbieslinger** says: Jul 6, 2009. 7:49 PM [REPLY](#)  
how about adding dye to the mortar to give it color?

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 **sanidpv** says: Jul 6, 2009. 2:01 AM [REPLY](#)  
time consuming project , but it is nice

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 **binglebeeop** says: Oct 22, 2008. 3:42 PM [REPLY](#)  
What effect would substituting the mortar mix with tile grout, as we have some left over from re-doing the floor. would this crack up easily, have a negative effect on sitting in large amounts, or wont work altogether.  
-thanks

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 **whamodyne** says: Oct 22, 2008. 5:10 PM [REPLY](#)  
Tile Grout does well in the lightbulb. Be aware, it's more "sticky" than mortar so it likes to stick to the rim of the bulb and your fingers more than regular mortar would. It's not as sticky as the thin set mortar you use for tile (which was an ungodly mess the couple times I tried it) but still more sticky than mortar.  
  
I'm using a pure white grout as a base for most of my colored bulbs these days, it's cheaper and easier to find than a white mortar mix. Using a white base and adding pigment was the best way I found to get a consistent, bright color.  
  
Grout can also be mixed up wetter than mortar and not have the massive cavities and fall apart like the mortar would. However, the look is usually a bit more uniform than the mortar which has these wonderful color variations on the bulb, almost like granite. Mortar is also still the king of all the mixes I've tried for the shine you get straight out of the bulb. Grout will reflect well and give you a smooth surface, but doesn't have the glassy, polished look that mortar does.

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 **TechNerd1012** says: Apr 22, 2009. 10:22 PM [REPLY](#)  
if you do the tile grout bulb, and it doesnt turn out glossy like mortar would, could you spray several coats of varnish on it to get it glossy?

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 **Agroking** says: Jul 2, 2009. 5:34 AM [REPLY](#)  
Of course, But do it lightly because Stalactites will form if you spray heavily. Also, don't set it down (Suspending could be a problem).

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 **amg1293** says: Jul 1, 2009. 5:39 PM [REPLY](#)  
WoW i'm definitely going to make one

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 **ferdemci** says: Jun 29, 2009. 6:42 AM [REPLY](#)  
wow this is amazing!!!

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 **charlynorte** says: Jun 27, 2009. 11:48 AM [REPLY](#)  
Muy bueno

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 **Jouda Mann** says: Jan 29, 2008. 1:26 AM [REPLY](#)  
About the bubbles:  
Since you're working with a small piece, I would suggest getting a palm sander. Five bucks at any pawn shop, and it doesn't matter what condition it's in, as long as the motor runs. It works by rotating the head in very small circles, and vibrates nicely. Set it in a jig upside down, and turn it on when you need it. It has a dense foam pad on it, so it will cushion your work as well.

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 **tyler\_durden** says: Jun 30, 2008. 9:54 PM [REPLY](#)  
In my operative dental classes, when we are casting an arch of teeth from an impression, we place the plaster loaded impression on a vibrator table to shake the bubbles out of the plaster before it sets. I think the idea of using an orbital sander is good except that they go extremely fast when they are "unloaded". It might be better to find an old vibratory massager at a garage sale and use that (no, not the ones that are shaped like dongs!).  
  
You could probably make a vibrating table by bolting a motor to a piece of wood standing on springs. Attach an off-center weight to the motor shaft and include a speed controller. When the motor runs the weight will make the whole thing vibrate like the dickens.

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**Kaljakaaleppi** says:

The first thought was actually a 'real' vibrator when I was reading the 'get rid of the bubbles' part :). Any motor with something odd shaped stuck to the shaft vibrates, and should do the job?

Jun 26, 2009. 1:28 AM [REPLY](#)



**tyler\_durden** says:

Yup.

Jun 26, 2009. 10:28 AM [REPLY](#)



**triplenine** says:

And I would suggest not buying the dong shaped one at a garage sale!

Dec 4, 2008. 10:41 AM [REPLY](#)



**the rowdyboy** says:

hahahaha classic

May 13, 2009. 1:30 PM [REPLY](#)



**brita** says:

LOL

May 11, 2009. 7:01 PM [REPLY](#)



**bass1193** says:

hehe, touché!

Jan 1, 2009. 7:13 PM [REPLY](#)



**OceanLady** says:

If you put it in a strong, clear plastic bag - like a freezer bag or something - the glass won't fly around so much. I used to have to break glass all the time for some of the crafts I did, and that always made it make less of a mess.

Jun 25, 2009. 6:49 AM [REPLY](#)

[view all 341 comments](#)