

smart materials

A Smart material is one that responds to a change in its surrounding environment and then alters in a predictable way. Liquid Crystal thermometers and sheet can introduce smart materials and provide the basis for a lively and interesting product design project.

LIQUID CRYSTAL THERMOMETERS

Ideal 10 - 40°C range. self adhesive strip 135 x 20mm.

LCT	Thermometers	each
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LIQUID CRYSTAL SHEET

Liquid crystal sheet, for demonstration purposes. Not to be confused with the thermocolour sheet which changes at one temperature threshold - this is the only sheet available to education which demonstrates the graduated colour change which characterises advanced liquid crystal technology.

LCS	150 x 150mm Sheet	each
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Peter Hussey, Head of Technology, ICT and Art at Pewsey Vale School has covered this new and exciting aspect of the curriculum in a lively, colourful and affordable way.

"Back in 2000, I was looking for an affordable way to introduce SMART materials into lower school Technology products when I came across liquid crystal thermometers. Liquid crystal chemical compounds have the ability to exhibit the mechanical properties of liquids and optical properties of solids."

Mr. Hussey made enquiries and organised anINSET session attended by Wiltshire County Advisor for Design & Technology, Vince Marriott and supported by the American manufacturer. "This served as a good launch pad for our product design topic. Pupils were asked to design a liquid crystal thermometer and then produce it, along with a minimum of environmentally friendly packaging and explanatory leaflet about SMART materials. We were able to combine Resistant Materials, Graphic Products and ICT into one very enjoyable project."

