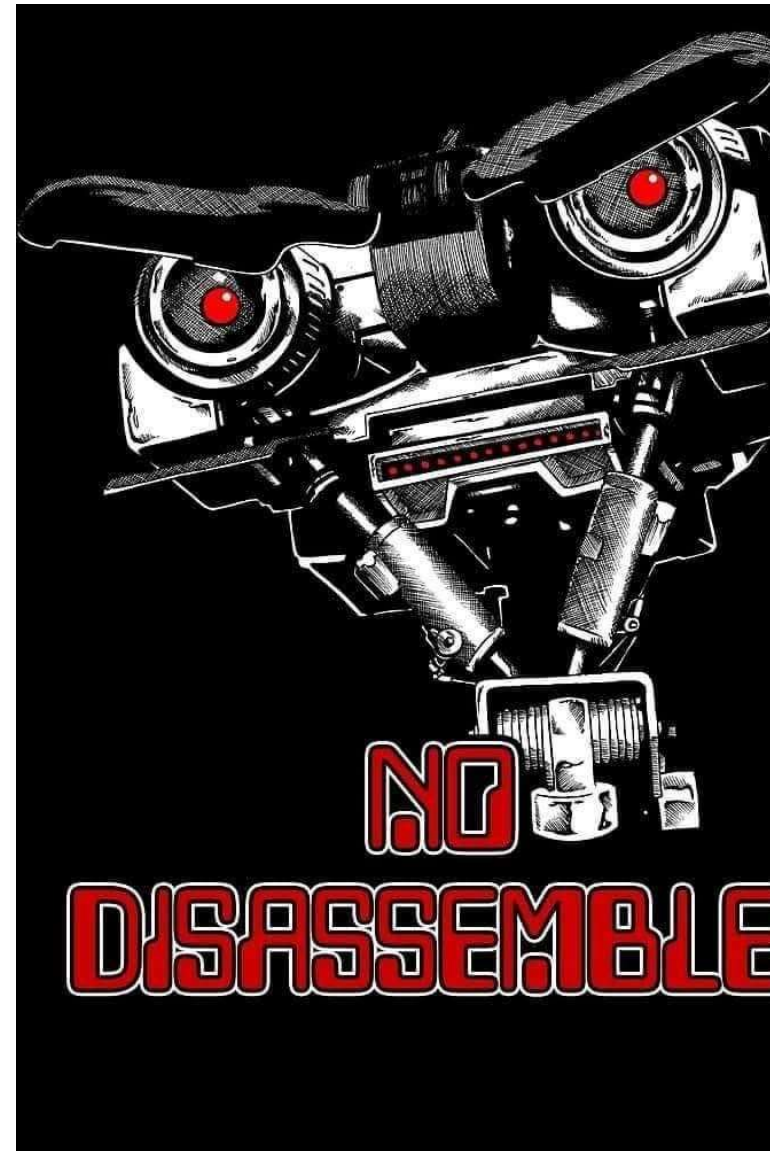


Convert an ATX Power Supply to Bench Use  
Milan N0EUV / K4VVE

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# Computer power supply ATX main power connectors

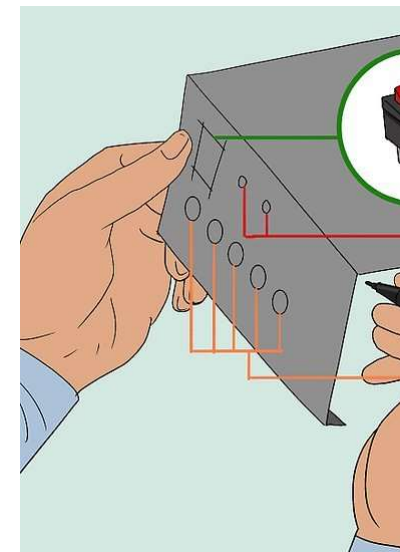
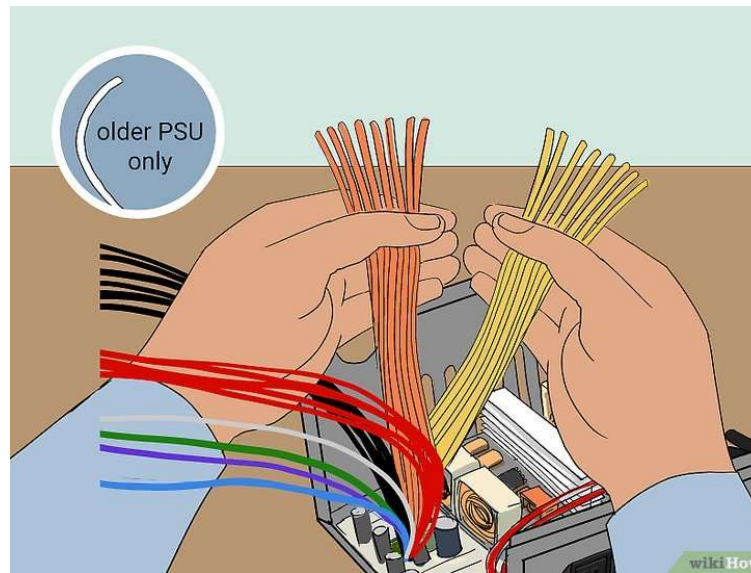
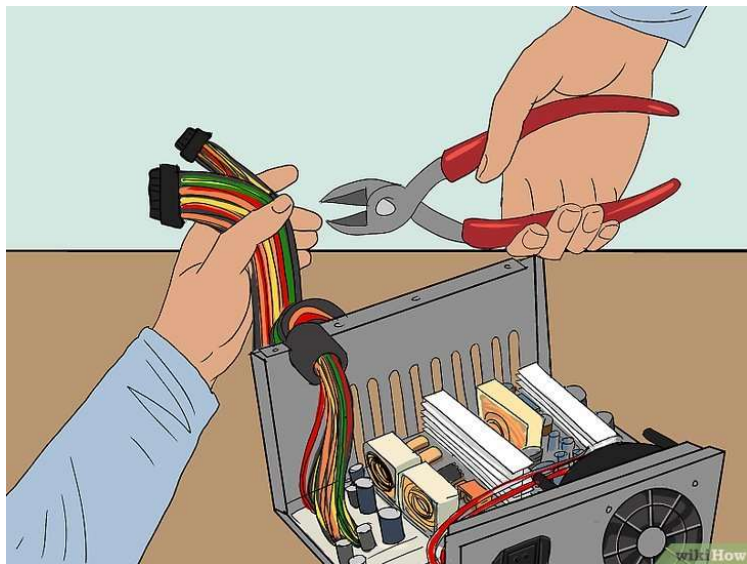
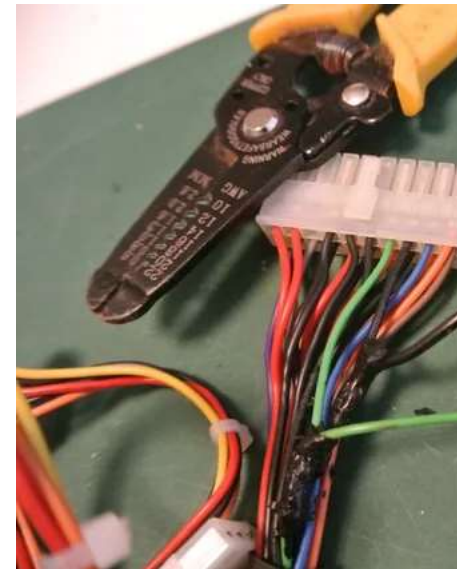
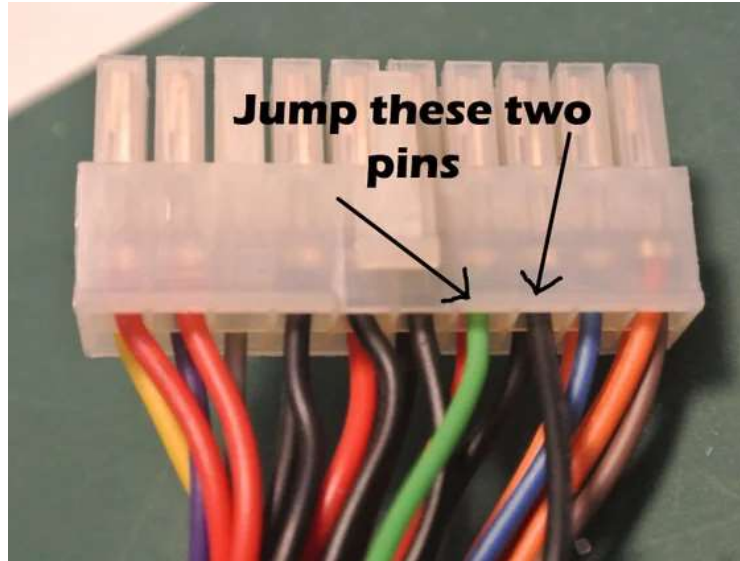
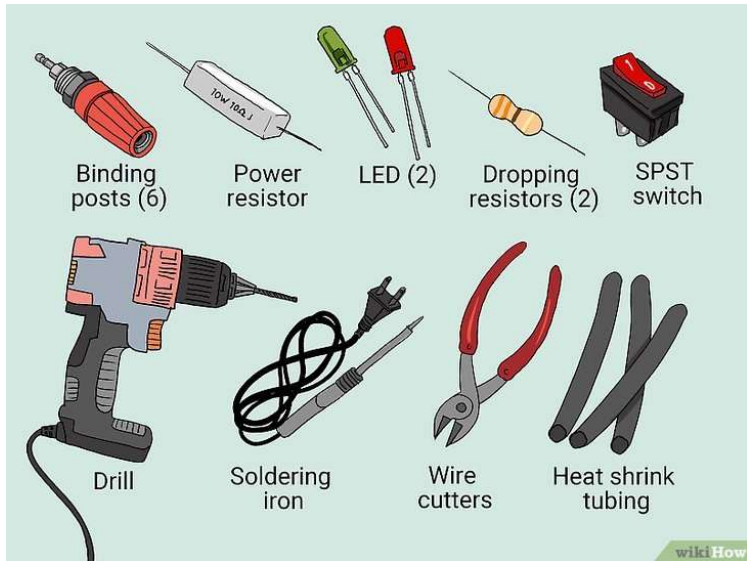


**CHOOSE  
YOUR**

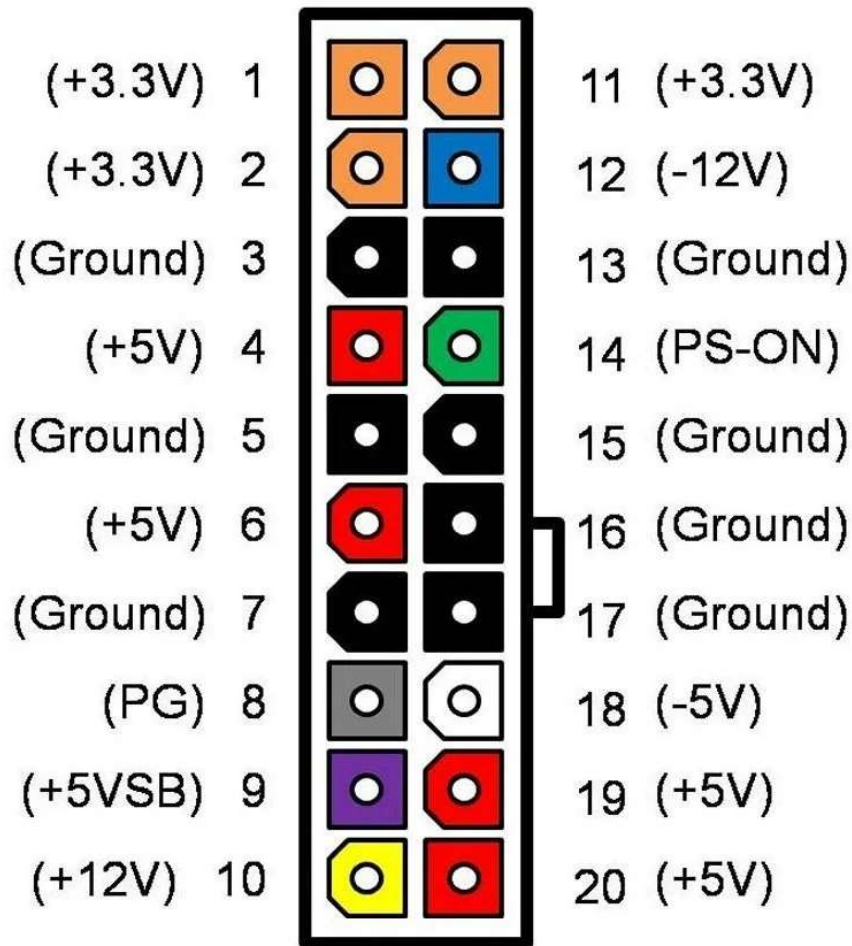


**E L M E R  
CAREFULLY!**

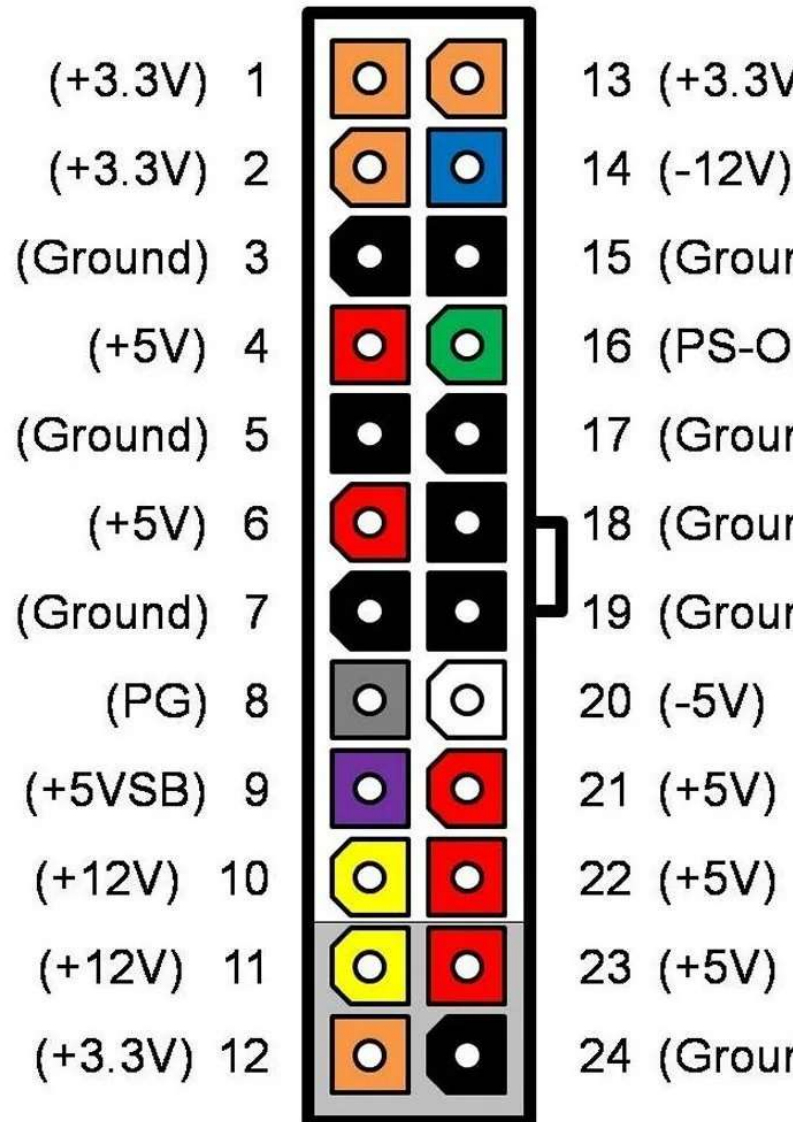




## 20 PIN CONNECTOR

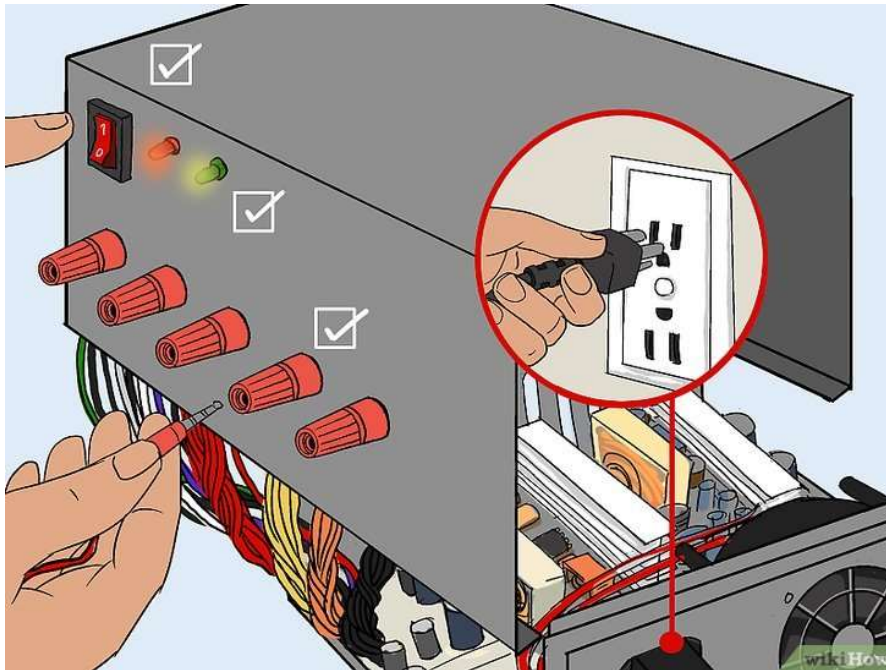


## 24 PIN CONNECTOR



**2 Connect the 10-ohm load resistor.** Connect one of the red wires to the power resistor and one black wire to the other end of the 10-ohm power resistor. This acts as a load, which the power supply unit needs to function properly. The power resistor will give off a lot of heat and should be mounted on the metal wall for proper cooling (or a heat sink mount). Make sure it doesn't short-circuit anything.

- You can also consider using a lighted 12v switch, which will act as the load necessary to turn on the power supply.
- If you aren't afraid of some soldering, you can replace the 10w power resistor with the cooling fan that was originally inside the PSU. Be careful with the polarity, though - match the red and black wires to each other.



The newer type ATX12V PSU's are a little more tricky to convert as they have a power switch function and require a much larger external load resistance. To turn the power supply up, or switch-ON, the supply must be loaded to at least 20W or 10% of the rated power for the larger 600W+ PSU's. Anything below this the power supply may not regulate and regulation will be very poor less than 50%.

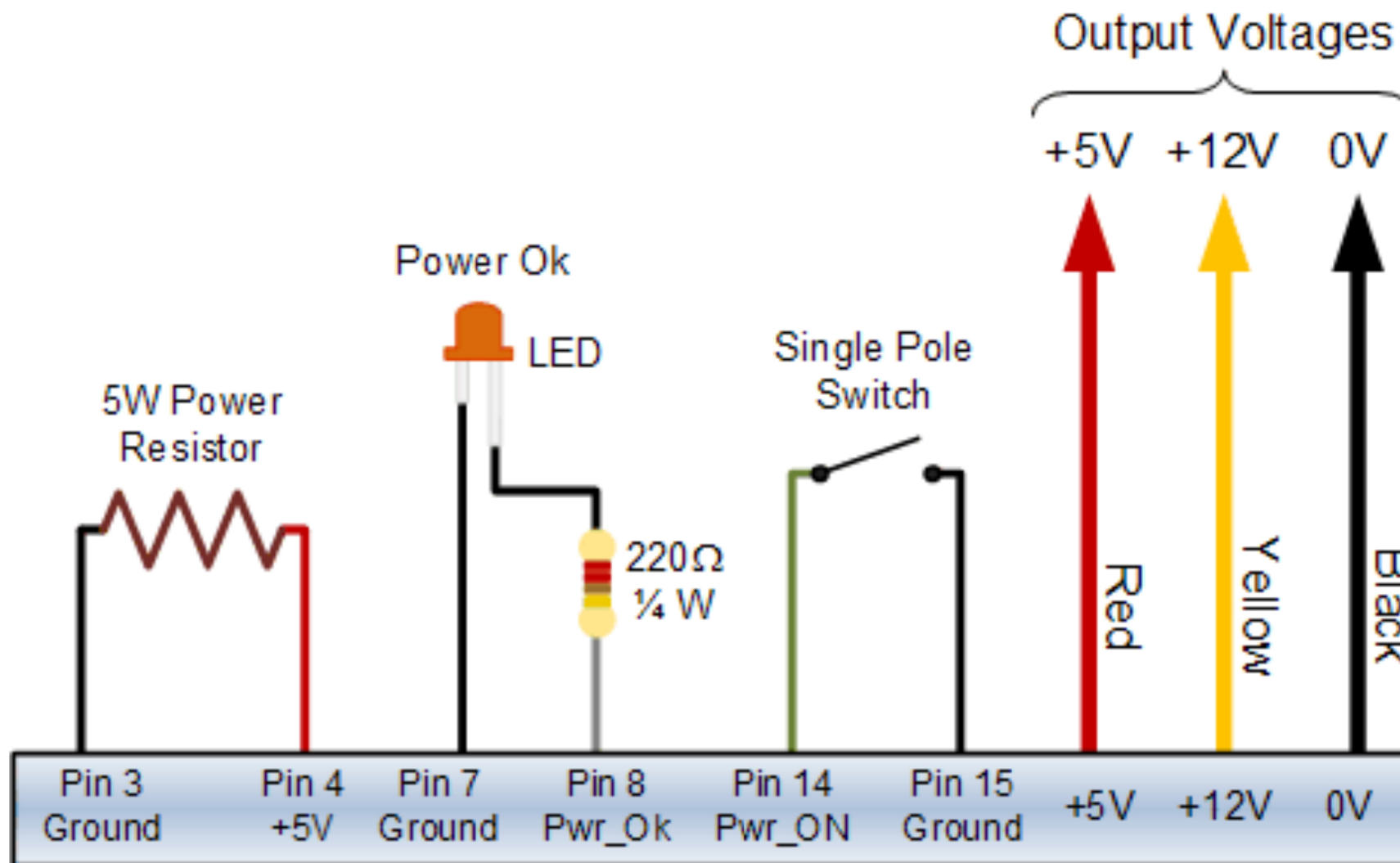
Also some of the newer and larger wattage PSU's require **pin 14 - Ground** to be connected permanently to ground using a SPST switch. Obviously each manufacturer is different from different manufacturers, so you need to find what works for your unit.

Again the voltages that can be output by this unit are the same as before: 17v (+5, -12), 12v (+12, 0), 10v (+5, -5), 7v (+12, +5), 5v (+5, 0). Note that some power supplies with a 24-pin motherboard connector may not have the -5v lead. In this case use the older ATX power supplies with a 20-pin connector. You will need the additional -5V supply.

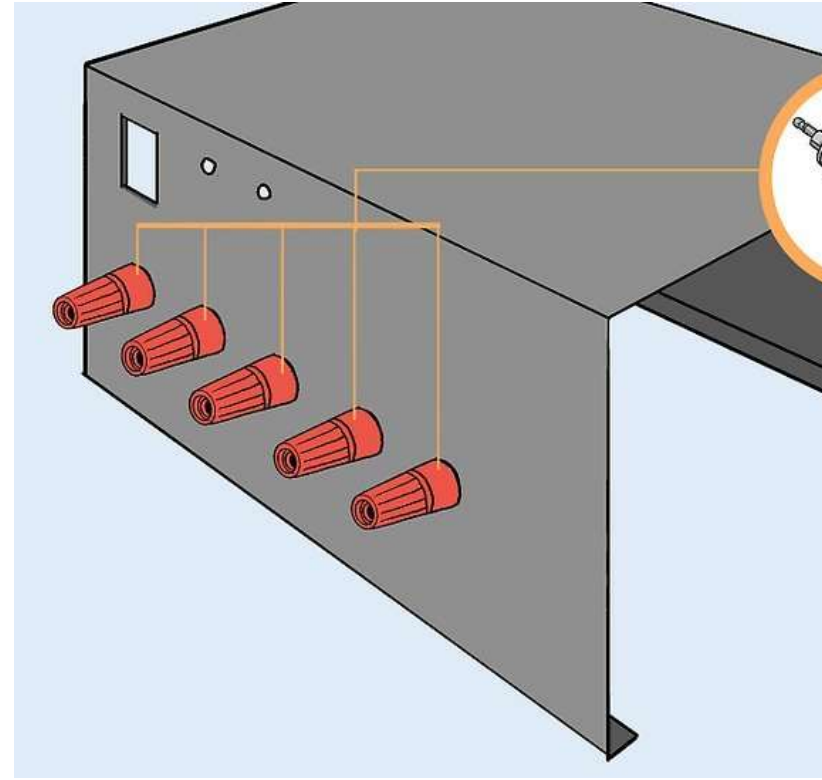
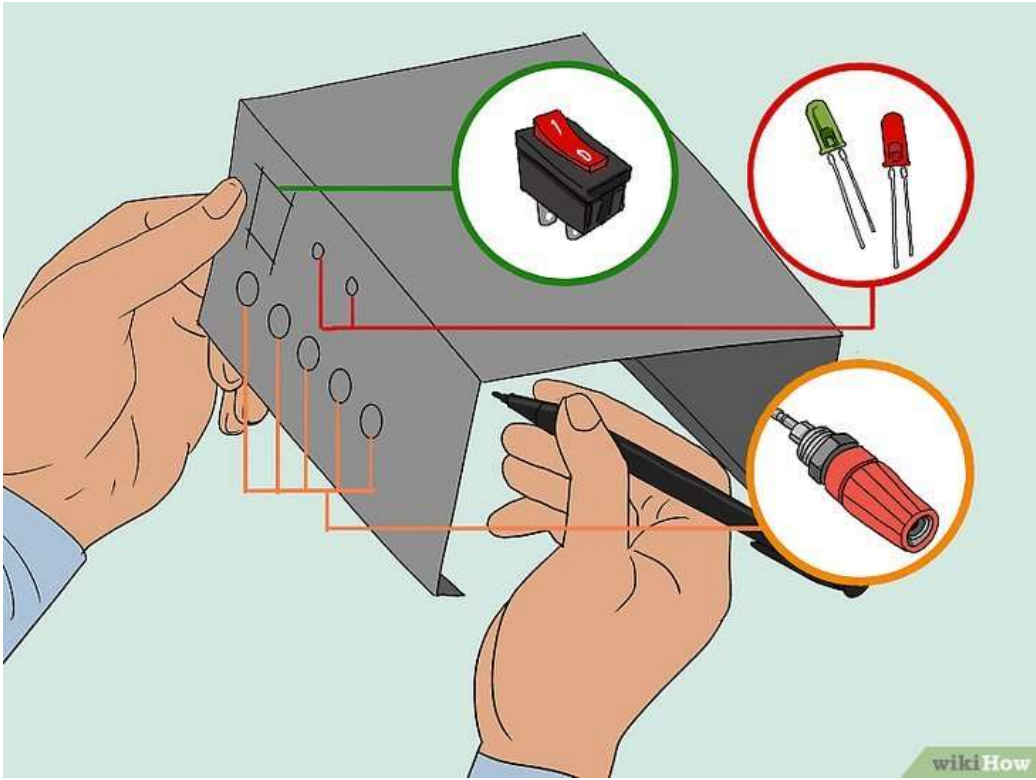
Any old PC power supply unit makes an excellent and cheap bench top power supply for the electronics constructor and the process to convert ATX PSU to a bench power supply is relatively straight forward. The power supply unit uses a switch to maintain a constant supply with good regulation and short circuit protection. The unit will shutdown and be re-powered immediately if something goes wrong.

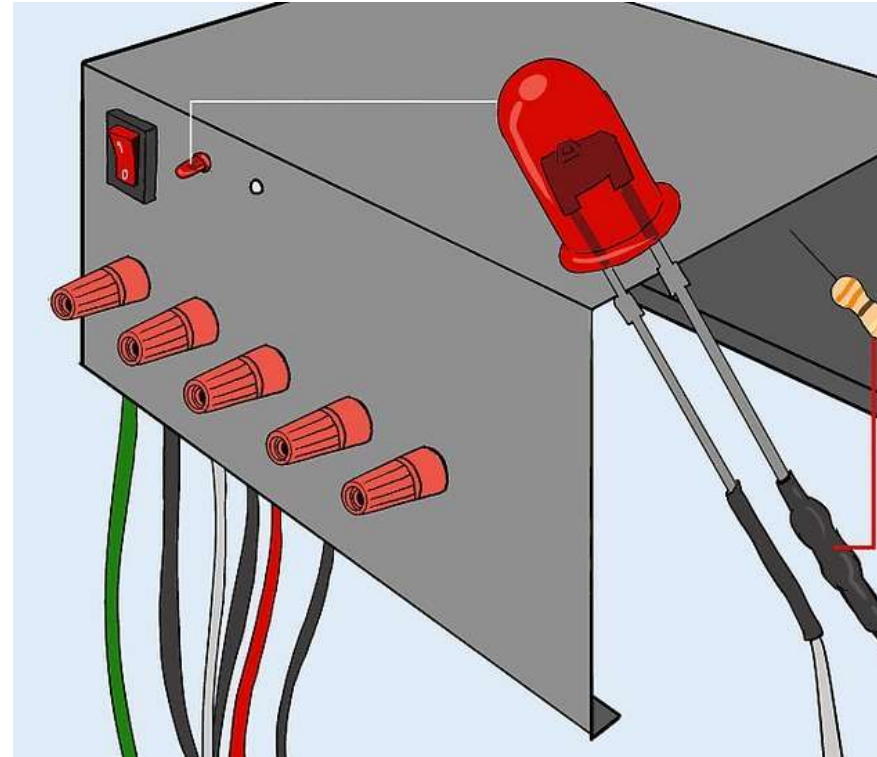
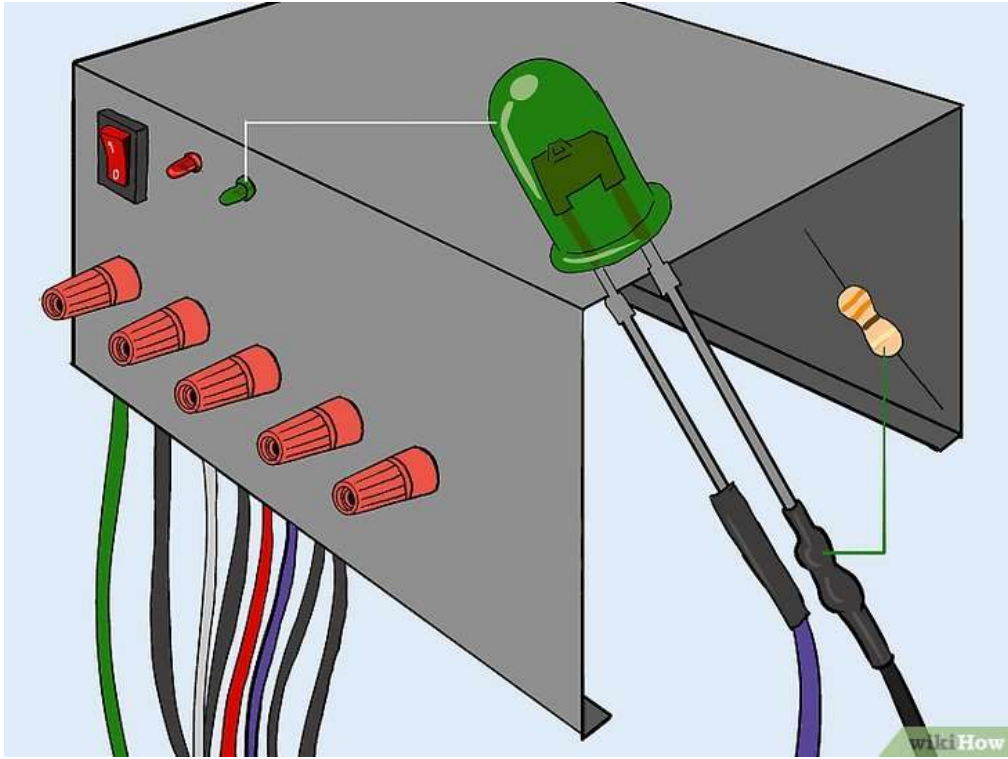
The only downside to convert ATX PSU to a bench power supply is that the fan speed (rpm) responds to the amount of current being drawn from the PSU so cooling may not be possible when laid onto a bench.

All in all, converting an **ATX PSU to a bench power supply** is an easy project to do. Not bad for something that would otherwise get thrown away but always disconnect from the mains supply first before you start any modifications as you are responsible for your own safety!.



20-pin Molex Connector

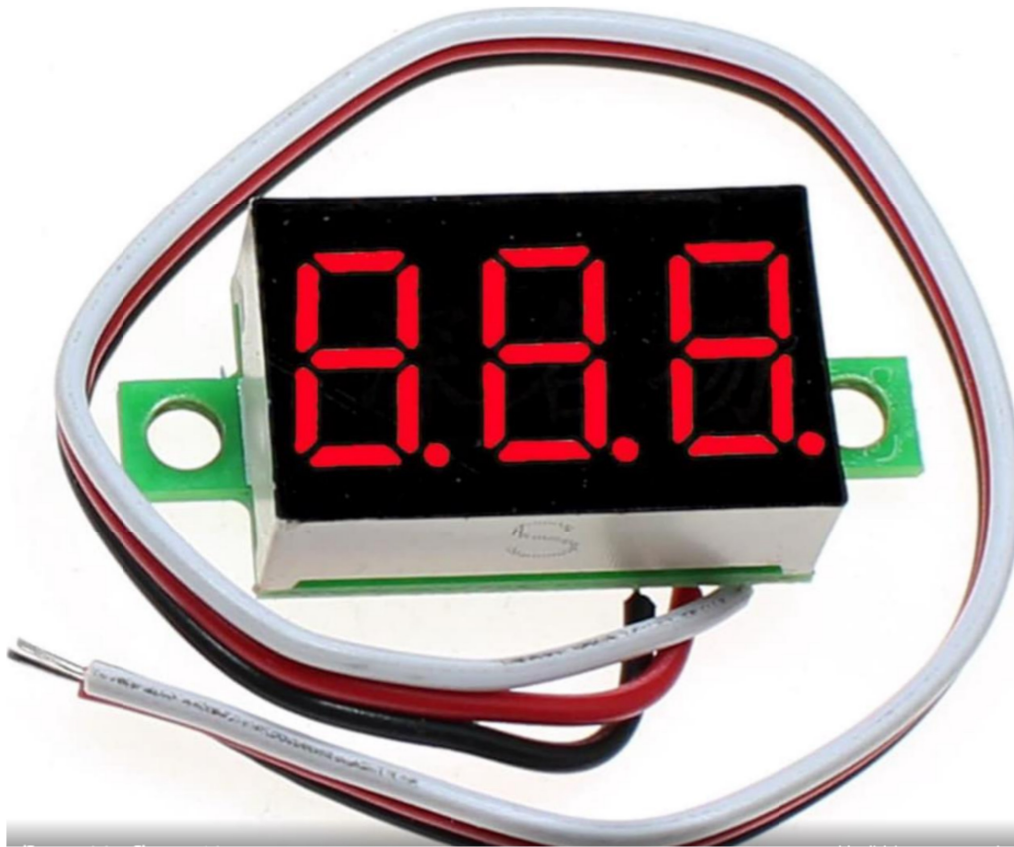






# display

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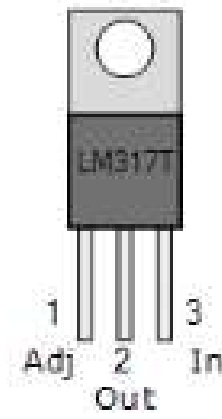
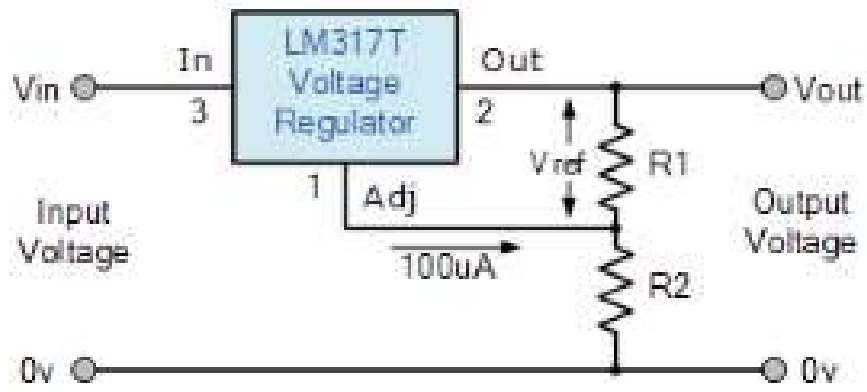


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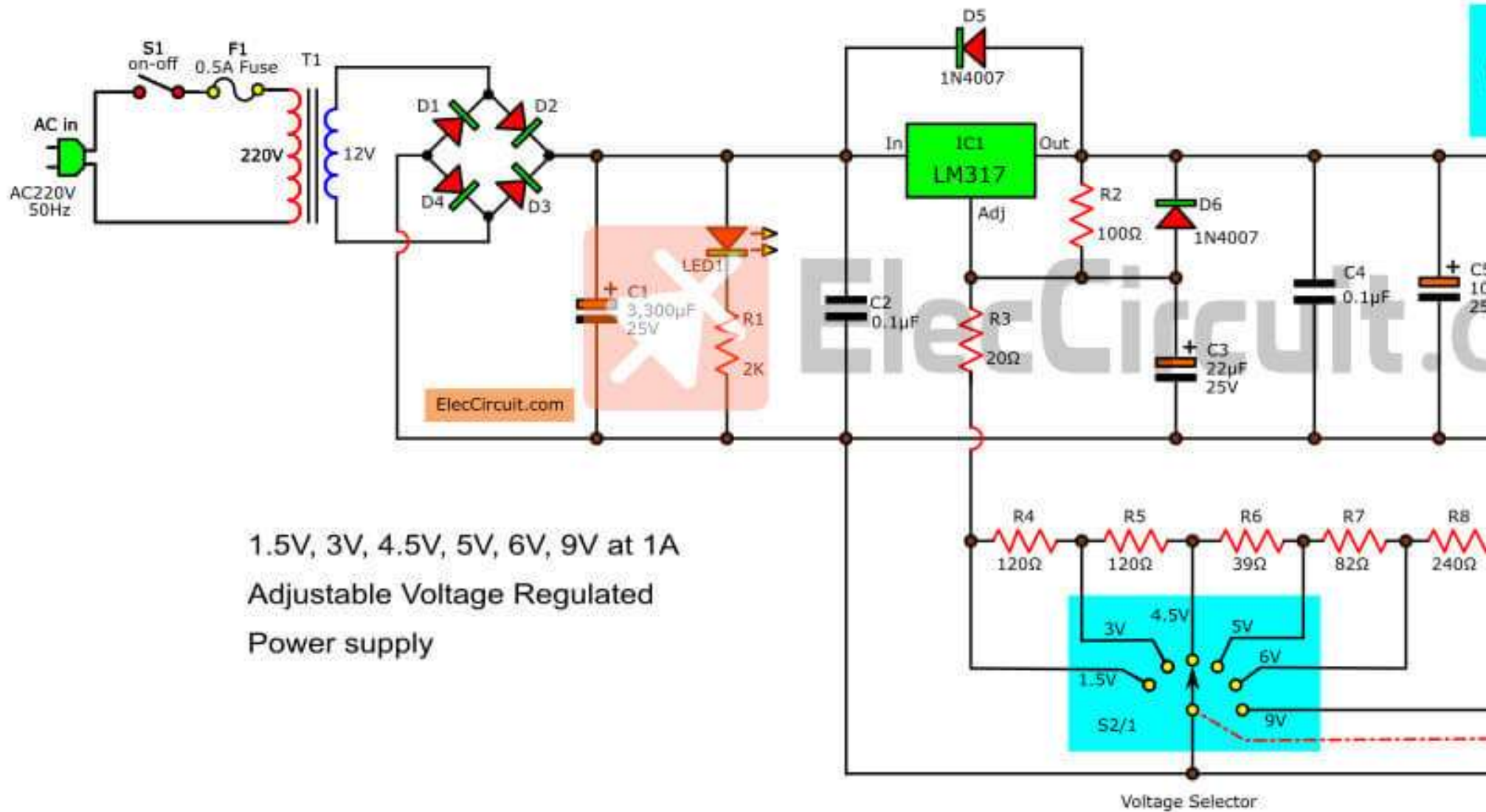
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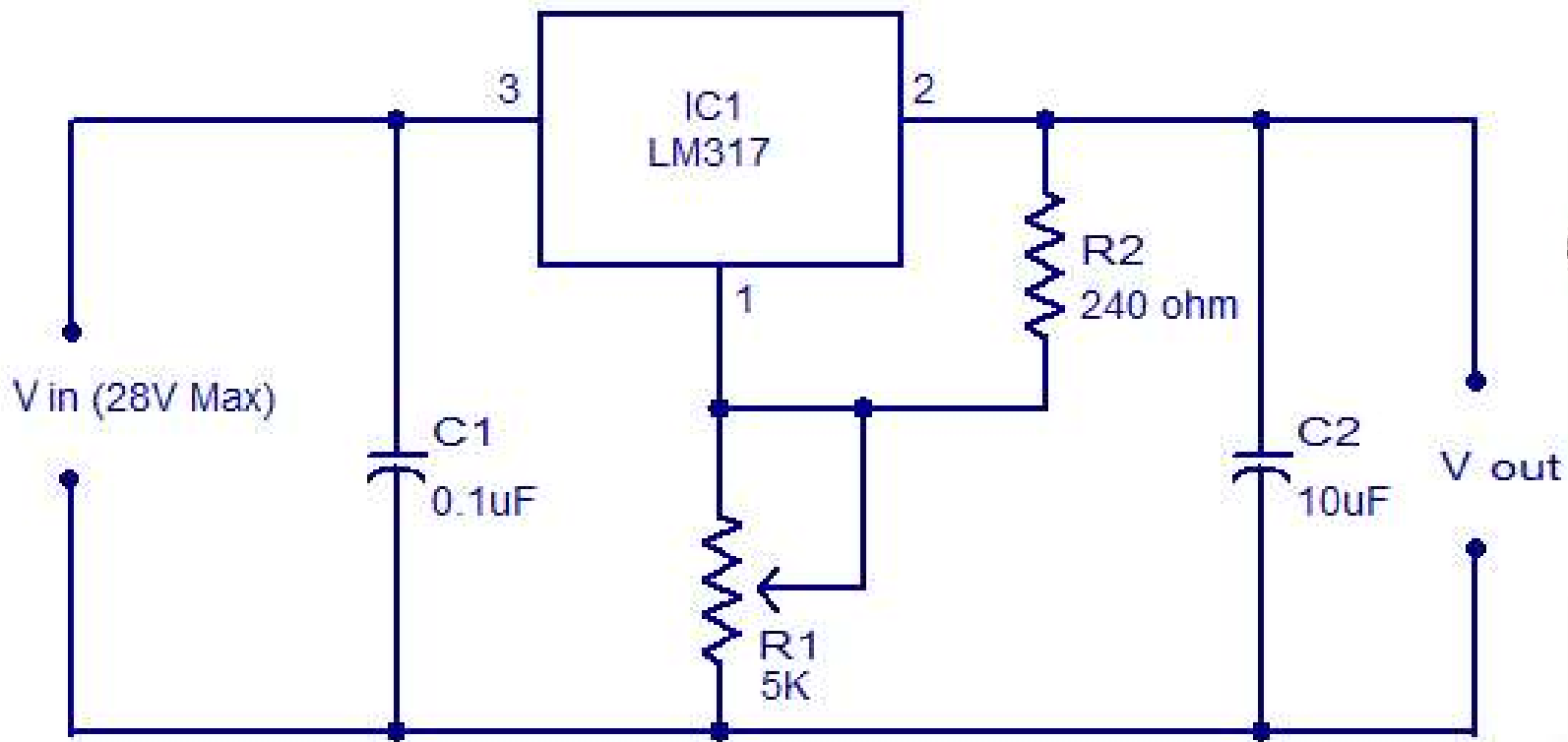


# Variable Voltage Power Supply

3-terminal linear fixed voltage popular choice for creating either positive or negative voltages



1.5V, 3V, 4.5V, 5V, 6V, 9V at 1A  
Adjustable Voltage Regulated  
Power supply



## LM317 Pin Arrangement



1. Adjust
2. V<sub>out</sub>
3. V<sub>in</sub>

Heatsink is connected to ground

Typical adjustable regulator using LM317

[www.circuitstoday.com](http://www.circuitstoday.com)

$$V_{out} = 1.25V (1 + (R2/R1)) + (I_{adj} \times R2)$$