The Animal Couple
A stuffed animal that lights up when holding hands and kissing partner

Materials needed:
2 stuffed animals
3 LEDs
sewing supplies
red fabric
small Velcro strip
conductive thread
conductive fabric
2 magnets
3V battery and holder

Step 1: Draw a diagram for yourself. This is really important, because you will lose track of positive and negative leads quickly.

Step 2: Do the easier animal. Mine was the bear because he didn’t light up. I opened him up by using a seam ripper on the threads in his back. Then I sewed a patch onto his arm where he would hold hands with the rabbit. Between the patch and his fur I encased a magnet. Connected to the conductive fabric was conductive thread, which I sewed into his paw, through his body, and up to his nose, where I wrapped it repeatedly to ensure a good connection.

Step 3: Open up your second animal in the same fashion and sew on its patch, this time connecting the conductive thread to the positive lead of your battery holder (unless your diagram has a different plan). Sew the thread into the skin, or make sure there is enough slack for the thread to travel through the stuffing to the battery pack, which you will want to stay towards the middle of the back. Now, the animals should be able to hold hands and pass electricity from one to another. Test it out with a spare LED.

Step 4: If you would like, create a heart for the outside of the animal. You could also make a heart outline in LEDs although using too many LEDs in series could make them very dim. Decide where to place your LEDs. Rather than cutting a hole in the fur, start from the outside and put the leads into the animal. You’ll want to remove a lot of stuffing to make this easier. Once the leads are in, curl the leads so that they will anchor the LED and not poke anyone. I curled the positives into circles and the negatives into squares. Then
I could tell them apart from the inside.

Step 5: Complete your circuit by sewing the positive leads together and up to the animal’s nose (again, unless your plan is different). Then run another conductive thread through all of the negative leads and then to the negative side of the battery holder. Wrapping the thread around each lead a few times should make a good quick connection, but make sure to place a stitch between LEDs so that moving the animal around won’t unwind anything. Lastly, sew the heart onto the animal over the LEDs and sew Velcro into the back so that your battery can be changed without ripping out the seam again.

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Extra Notes:

**Check your connection after every segment.**

For example, step 2 should have at least 2 checkpoints, one holding a battery and LED from the patch to the end of the conductive thread, and one holding a battery and LED from the patch to the nose.

Sewing a shape that will be stuffed is hard. It took me two tries, but this is the shape that created the best heart for me.

When connecting the LEDs and/or battery, double up the conductive thread so that you can be sure the connection is strong.

Instead of leaving conductive thread loose in the stuffing, you can sew it into the sides of the animal. This will ensure that wires do not cross!

For a challenge, have both animals light up in some way. One animal can have a glowing heart and the other could blush or have muscle wire that moves the ears.