

# Press Release

## WIRE LIGHTING SYSTEMS



### With a little bit of tension...

*Wire lighting systems have emerged as a contemporary design favourite due to their sleek, unobtrusive styling and functionality, as well their extraordinary ability to be installed in some of the most challenging spaces.*

Says Melissa Davidson from The Lighting Warehouse: “Wire lighting systems are often used in areas where it would be a challenge to mount other types of lighting, such as in rooms with very high ceilings, cathedral or vaulted ceilings and ceilings interrupted by soffits, beams or exposed ductwork. For a typically South African application — think thatched roofs, bomas or lapas. In these situations, short runs of under six metres, may be installed from wall to wall without any vertical support at all.

“They are perfect for the lounge or living area, or even the kitchen or bar area. They can also be mounted vertically for a funky, modern look. The light source is adjustable, as you can tilt the spotlight heads and shine the light wherever you want it,” she explains.

Essentially, wire lighting systems are a low-voltage system of lighting where the mechanism that holds and conducts electricity to the light fixtures comprises a pair of cables. “For those instances where cable runs of more than six metres are required, additional vertical support is required in order to negate excessive tension from stressing the mounting points on either end of the wall,” says Davidson.

Of course, she says, wire lighting systems can also be used in areas with standard, flat ceilings as a matter of design preference: “Their elegant and simple aesthetic makes for great general, task and spot lighting. They are a wonderfully appealing alternative to other forms of linear lighting systems, such as monorail or traditional track lighting.”

The Lighting Warehouse offers three different kinds of wire lighting systems; the Zira, Nuka and Sarabi — all of which come in ready-to-install kits. Each kit comprises 1 x 10m roll of cable, a transformer, 5 x spot lights with 50 watt MR16 globes, and a full mounting kit.



*Wire lighting systems such as these can also be used in areas with standard, flat ceilings as a matter of design preference.*



**The Lighting Warehouse 15080 Zira**

*The Zira wire lighting system is available from The Lighting Warehouse for R1 199,95.*



**The Lighting Warehouse 15081 Nuka**

*The Nuka wire lighting system is available from The Lighting Warehouse for R1 199,95.*



**The Lighting Warehouse 15082 Sarabi**

*The Sarabi wire lighting system is available from The Lighting Warehouse for R799,95.*



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In addition to the three all-in-one box wire kits available from The Lighting Warehouse, you could order any of the special components below if you wish to configure your systems differently or because the application demands it:

**Cables:** These form the primary support and the electrical conductor for the lights. The cables used are Kevlar reinforced, tin plated, 10 gauge cables.

**Turnbuckles:** Turnbuckles serve several purposes — they attach the cable to a wall or ceiling mount point, expand and contract via a screw motion to apply and release tension on the cable run, and may also serve as a powerfeed for the system by carrying power through the mounting wall to the system itself.

**Anchors:** Anchors are similar to turnbuckles in that they attach the cable to a wall mount point, however, they do not allow additional tension to be applied to a system. If a cable run is short and not very complex, it would typically have one set of turnbuckles and one set of anchors. While longer runs may have turnbuckles at both ends.

**Surface mount transformers:** Transformers, which are housed in finished enclosures designed to be attached over a power junction box in the wall or ceiling, are referred to as surface mount transformers. These transformers are more common than remote transformers due to their ease of installation.

**Turn kits:** The turn kit allows the system to be turned at any angle along the run. It comprises a pair of rigid stem supports attached to a cantilevered horizontal support cable, and can only be used with a system that runs close to the ceiling.

**Remote mount transformers:** This is a transformer that is designed to be mounted in a closet or other area that is hidden away from the lighting project. Remote mount transformers offer a very clean aesthetic, but are typically practical only in new construction projects where access to the area behind walls is available. When installing cable systems under irregular ceilings with exposed beams, it may be acceptable to tuck a remote mount transformer behind a beam rather than within the wall itself.

**Isolating connectors:** These physically connect two lengths of cable while interrupting the flow of current between them. Since cable lighting systems may only carry 300 watts of power along any part of a run, isolating connectors allow continuous long cable runs with multiple, independently-powered segments.

**Vertical supports:** These are rigid pieces of metal, called stem supports, which mount directly to flat ceilings. They add support to cable runs of over six metres, in places where there is an irregularly shaped ceiling, or in circumstances where heavy pendant fixtures need extra support.

**Globes:** Most wire lighting systems use a low-voltage system, which uses a transformer to reduce the current from 120 volts to around 12 volts, which makes these systems very safe. The transformer for a low-voltage wire lighting system may or may not be apparent, so it's always safest to replace blown light bulbs with those with identical wattage and purpose. For energy saving options, you can use 35 watt MR16 globes, which can be put on a dimmer switch. Alternatively, you can opt for LED globes, either an 18-piece LED globe or a high-powered 3 watt LED. 🏠