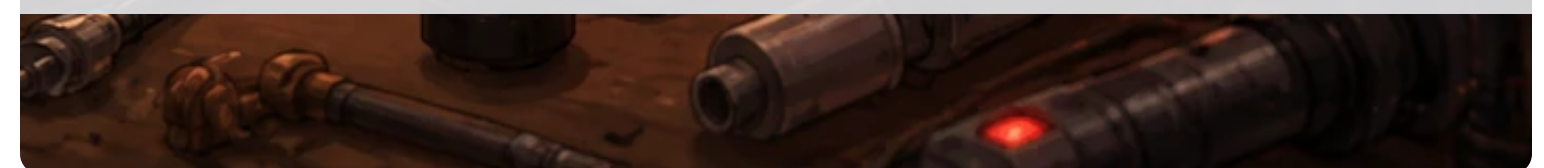




The Half-Lit Saber

BingBong





Jax sat at his workbench, staring in awe at the newly arrived metallic hilt resting on the padded foam. The dark, weathered finish felt heavy in his hands, perfectly echoing the legendary dual-bladed design he had dreamed of owning for years. He eagerly prepared the custom hilt for its very first ignition test.



With his bedroom dimly lit to showcase the high-end Neopixel LEDs, Jax raised his smartphone to capture the magnificent moment on camera. He pressed the metallic activation switch, holding his breath as a deep hum resonated from the internal speaker.



A vibrant crimson beam shot upward from the top emitter, but the lower blade flickered uncertainly. Instead of extending its full length, the red light stalled abruptly halfway down the polycarbonate tube, leaving the upper half completely dark.



Jax leaned closer, holding his phone in one hand to snap a quick, unfiltered photo of the half-lit blade for troubleshooting. The raw smartphone picture captured the intense red glow abruptly fading into darkness, perfectly documenting the glitch.



The half-ignited blade cast deep crimson shadows across the cluttered workbench, illuminating loose copper wires, hex keys, and soldering tools. Jax studied the snapshot on his phone screen, trying to figure out whether the issue was a dead LED segment or a faulty data signal.



He posted the casual phone picture on an online prop-building forum, asking fellow hobbyists for technical advice. Within minutes, a seasoned maker replied, suggesting that a loose Neopixel data pin inside the core connector was likely interrupting the light signal.



Carefully, Jax unscrewed the central coupler of the dark hilt, exposing the intricate, 3D-printed electronics chassis beneath. Glowing accent LEDs inside the exposed core flickered softly, revealing delicate micro-wiring and a compact soundboard.



Using a fine pair of tweezers, Jax gently re-seated the tiny Neopixel data connector until it clicked firmly into place. He inspected every wire under his desk lamp, making sure the power signal could travel uninterrupted down the full length of the blade.



After sliding the chassis back into the heavy metal body, Jax stood up in the dark room and pressed the power button once more. The soundboard roared to life as energy surged from the internal battery through both emitters.



Crimson light erupted flawlessly from top to bottom on both ends, filling the entire room with a continuous, brilliant dark-side glow. Grinning with triumph, Jax snapped one final phone picture of the fully restored masterpiece to share with the maker community.