



LED STRIP BUYING GUIDE

How to pick the right 12V WS2815 addressable RGB strip for your RC build.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

Chipset	WS2815 (required — not WS2812B)
Voltage	12V (critical)
Type	Addressable RGB (each LED individual)
Density	30–60 LEDs per meter
Form	Flexible silicone strip
Data wire	Has backup data wire (3–4 wires)

COMPATIBLE VS. NOT

These WILL work

- ✓ WS2815 chipset, 12V
- ✓ Addressable RGB (individually controlled LEDs)
- ✓ 30, 60, or 144 LEDs/meter
- ✓ Flexible strips with a backup data line

These will NOT work

- ✗ Single-color (non-RGB) strips
- ✗ Non-addressable / analog RGB strips
- ✗ 5V WS2812B strips
- ✗ 24V strips of any kind
- ✗ Any non-WS2815 addressable strip



WHERE TO BUY

Recommended sources

- Amazon — search 'WS2815 12V addressable LED strip' (\$15–30)
- AliExpress — cheaper, slower shipping (2–4 weeks)
- Adafruit — premium quality, fast shipping
- Local hobby electronics shops

POWER PLANNING

Each WS2815 LED draws roughly 60mA at full white. Size your power supply for 1.5–2x your peak current so brightness stays stable in flight.

30 LEDs	~1.8A peak → use a 3A supply
60 LEDs	~3.6A peak → use a 5–6A supply
120 LEDs	~7.2A peak → use a 10A+ supply

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID

- 1 Buying 5V WS2812B instead of 12V WS2815 — the #1 mistake.
- 2 Not checking the chipset on the product page before ordering.
- 3 Grabbing a non-addressable RGB strip (all LEDs change together).
- 4 Using breadboard/jumper connections — always solder for RC use.
- 5 Undersizing the power supply, causing flicker and dropouts.
- 6 Ignoring the backup data wire — it improves reliability.

Still not sure?

- ! Email the product link to ericrobb4@gmail.com and I'll confirm compatibility before you buy.