

Switches

A switch is an electronics component that can make or break a circuit. There are a number of different switch types:

Press switches:

Push to make Push to break

The push to make forms the connection only when the switch is pressed, the push to make works in the opposite way.

Slide/toggle switches:

Slide and toggle switches are described using 2 criteria, number of poles and number of throws.

Poles refer to the number of contacts, i.e. a single pole has only 2 contacts, a double pole has 2 sets of contacts which are usually not connected together.

Throw refers to the number of positions a switch has, a single throw is on/off. A double throw has 2 possible contacts for a centre common pin.

Single Pole Single Throw

Single Pole Double Throw

(SPST) (SPDT)

Common connection

Single Pole Double Throw

Double Pole Double Throw

(SPST) (DPDT)