
How to use a Click-on

Quick Guide

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Click-on is a mains control unit that allows safe switch operation of a main operated electrical device or appliance, providing additional experiences and facilitating inclusion. For example, a child can take part in a cookery session by using a switch to turn on and off a food mixer. By using 'real' equipment rather than just toys, and by achieving real 'control', children feel that switch operation is more important.

The **Click-on** is mains operated and fully electronic. It has:

- two mains sockets into which any two 240v devices or appliances can be plugged.
- two 3.5mm jack switch sockets, and two bigger 1/4" jack sockets so that either type of switch can be attached
- a button that lets you cycle through the various possible control settings (selected depending on the user's needs)
- a second button allowing you to cycle through and select the desired timed period (seconds or minutes)



Advantages of the Click-on over other similar devices

Click-on is a new British product (2009). It is marginally cheaper (£119 ex VAT, 2009) and does the same - and more - as the older PowerLink 2 (still available). With two fully independent channels it can operate two mains devices simultaneously using the same settings. It has easy touch controls and clear indicator lights, so you can choose the desired functions simply and accurately. There are different control modes/methods (see below).

Setting up the Click-on

1. Decide whether it is to be set up for one or two users, and select activity and appliances/devices to be controlled. NB. You don't HAVE to operate in two appliances, often one will be all you want
2. Plug the Click-on into the mains & switch the wall socket on. Check red light comes on
3. Plug switch(es) into Click-on
4. Choose your Click-on setting (see above)

5. Plug in the electrical appliance, device or toy into the Click-on and make sure it is switched to ON or PLAY (but it shouldn't operate straight away)
6. Hit the switch to make the appliance turn ON

Settings

New and potentially useful features/settings are:

- Co-operation - connect two switches. Both need to be pressed at the same time to switch on the device.
- Two-switch on/off - connect two switches. Press one to turn the device on and the other to turn it off - a simple, easy to grasp concept that is ideal for introducing two switch skills.

Standard functions are:

- **Direct** - the device operates only as long as the switch is held down.
Often preferred for first-time switch users, just learning cause and effect, so they can see the immediate and 1:1 correspondence between their switch action and the effect produced. Used with a motivating "reward" this may encourage the user to hold down the switch for gradually longer periods. But for users with severe physical difficulties the effect may be so short that the user fails to notice it, or this mode can be frustrating and too effortful.
- **Timed seconds** - allows a single switch activation to make the appliance run for a set amount of time in seconds (you need to then use the other button to set for the desired time, 5, 10 or 15 seconds etc.) About 10 seconds is usually long enough to 'register' that the effect has occurred (but short enough to offer plenty practice in repeating the operation. This setting gives 'maximum reward for minimum physical effort and is useful for a device that has to run for a certain short length of time, such as a whisk or mixer. This setting can be used to encourage a student to learn to press the switch again repeatedly to complete or prolong an activity.
- **Timed minutes** - allows the appliance to set a longer running time with a single activation (use the other button to set for the desired time, 5, 10 or 15 minutes etc.) This would only be used with someone who has 'got' cause and effect understanding and who is just using the Click-on for control, e.g. to play one story on a tape, or for a particular radio or TV programme. It could also be used when a longer running time is needed such as a bedside light at night.
- **Latching** - one press of the switch turns the appliance on; the second press of the switch turns it off again. Effective when you want an appliance, such as a lamp or radio to remain on for an extended length of time. Can be used as a simple environment control aid, e.g. for user to switch his/her own bedside radio on.

Health and Safety

Especially with appliances that get hot or have moving parts/blades such as a light bulb, coffee grinder, popcorn maker or mixer etc., make sure you -

- Do not place appliance too close to the user
- Unplug the appliance from the Click-on before opening the lid e.g. of blender
- Unplug the appliance from the Click-on when not in use.

Trouble Shooting

The **Click-on** is pretty straightforward and little can go wrong. Most commonly:

- You've plugged it in or set it up wrong

- The device you're trying to operate is not working / not switched ON
- The switch you're using is not working

Actions you can take:

Unplug everything and start again carefully checking each step.

- Is **Click-on** plugged into mains and mains socket switched ON?
- Is device you want to operate plugged into **Click-on**?
- Is device you want to operate switched ON? If it has a pressure sensitive 'trigger' switch, make sure it's taped firmly down into the ON position

If still not working –

- Check if red light on the **Click-on** is coming on when you plug it in, if not it may be 'dead'
- Check the device you want to operate is working by plugging it directly into the wall and switching on.
- Check your switch is working by connecting it into another device that you know works.
- Check the **Click-on** by connecting it up with a switch and appliance that you know work.

What will a Click-on operate?

Basically – though with some exceptions – any mains appliance that has a simple on/off switch and no other switches or settings. (On some appliances that have a button that you hold down to activate the device, you may be able to use firm masking tape to tape it into a permanently ON position.)

Everyday Devices

- *Lamp*
- Fan (e.g. rotating table fan or free standing), fan heater
- Cassette tape recorder Radio. Old style TV (non-digital)
- Paper shredder
- Electric pencil sharpener, stapler
- Disco lights, Christmas lights

*Sadly, some of the more modern appliances and the latest digital appliances are problematical as they have not just an ON/OFF switch but also some fancy electronics in between the mains plug and the operation of the device itself. Sadly, many of these cannot be operated by the Click-on (e.g. CD or DVD player, microwave oven).

Sensory Experiences

- Any/ all mains operated devices in a Multisensory or White/Black Room, such as bubble tube, fibre-optics, projector etc.
- Massager

Drama

For dramatic effect in performances: operate bubbles, fog/smoke, spotlight, music

Science / Technical

Electric drill or other power tools (clamped to a stand)**Home Economics** (some with help or with a partner)

Mixer / food processor

Blender / smoothie maker

Coffee Grinder Popcorn maker

Electric can opener

Electric scissors, electric carving knife

Washing machine Tumble drier

Electric or Halogen cooker*

Sewing machine

For some appliances, it may depend on the model you have. For example, some toasters will work with a bit of fiddling around, taping bits down etc. but other models may not – you'll just have to experiment.

Electric kettles are allegedly OK, but I once blew the fuse in the plug of an older PowerLink, so I now tell people to avoid kettles, as these can have a very high power surge.



Multiple Devices

If you use an adapter or a four-way power extension lead block (ideally with surge protection), you can plug in and operate multiple devices / appliances, e.g., light, fan, music etc. Try not to use several of the highest-powered devices all at once.

Useful Websites

Most of these write about using the PowerLink but the ideas apply equally to the **Click-on**

<http://www.northcottcats.com.au/tutorials/index.html> (scroll down to 'Switch Skills' section / How to use a Click-on 2)

'Ideas on how to use a Click-on at home and school' (.PDF download)

Google 'northcott ideas PowerLink')

<http://www.spectronicsinoz.com/product/22190/popup>

http://store.ablenetinc.com/videos/how_to/powerlink_howto.mov (video)

<http://www.pisp.ca/strategies/strategies94.pdf>

<http://www.pisp.ca/video/index.htm> (video)

Click-on Supplier

www.inclusion.co.uk (products, switch access devices and accessories)