

Modifying Battery toys for Switch Use

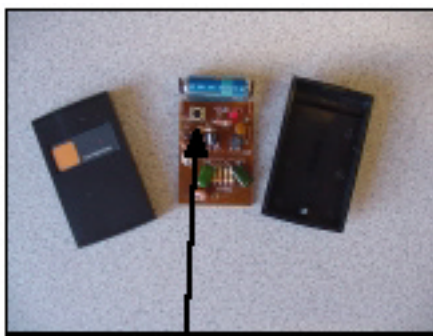
Although you can buy switch-controlled toys, they are expensive and you may not be able to find the exact one you want for your client/student/son/daughter. You can modify some toys by putting a Battery Switch Adapter¹ between the batteries, but these are fiddly and can be unreliable - with a lot of use the cable or connection may break. Also, for the switch to work you need to be able to 'hold on' the main power switch for the toy, which is sometimes a problem - e.g. with modern CD players that have light touch buttons.

A better solution may be to permanently modify the toy or device by attaching a switch socket to it. This requires a small amount of electronic know-how and some ability with hand tools and a soldering iron.

Here, maintaining a long tradition of CALL Centre good taste, we show you how to modify a battery powered Fart Machine.



Fart Machine transmitter and sounder



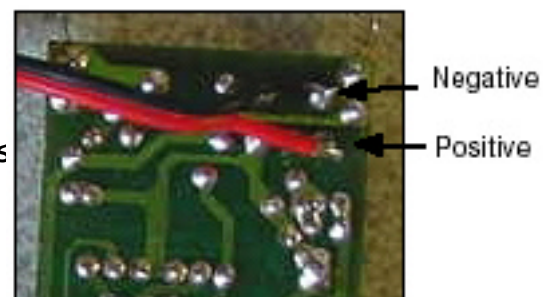
Push-button

Step 1 The Fart Machine has a remote control transmitter. Take it apart carefully and remove the printed circuit board.

Step 2 Identify the push-button that operates the toy. We will attach a jack socket so the switch operates it as well.

Step 3 Turn the PCB

over and identify the push-button solder connections. Use a meter to check that the connections short when the switch is pressed. Measure the voltage on each pin so you know which one is positive and which is negative.



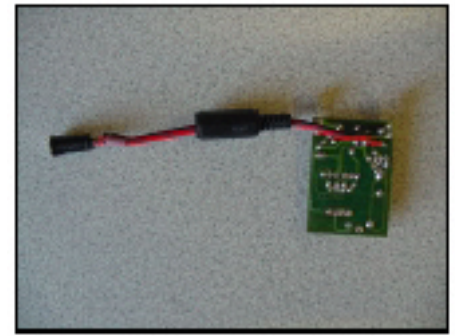
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Step 4 Solder wires to the switch connections on the PCB.

Step 5 Solder a jack socket to the other ends of the wires - connect the jack socket tip to positive and the barrel to negative on the PCB.



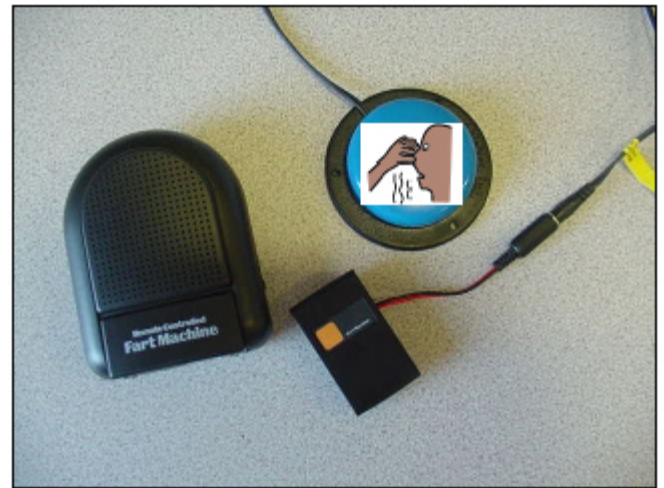
Step 6 Cut a small hole for the cable in the case.

Step 7 Check it works before putting it all back together

Step 8 Et voila! Hours of harmless fun for all the family!

Completed switch-modified Fart Machine, with switch and suitable PCS Symbol

This same procedure can be used for other toys or devices like cars, tape recorders or CD players. You will usually find it easier to take apart and modify remote controls rather than the actual device.



Remote Controlled Fart Machine available from high class toy merchants. Manufactured by T.J. Wiseman Ltd., Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 07632 U.S.A.

See Using a switch with a battery powered device, <http://www.ace-north.org.uk/resources/resv.htm>

CAUTION:

IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE HOT END FROM THE COLD END OF A SOLDERING IRON, GET TRAINING BEFORE YOU START, OR BETTER STILL, SOMEONE TO DO IT FOR YOU. WE ACCEPT NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR BURNED FINGERS OR DAMAGED EQUIPMENT. NEVER TRY TO MODIFY HIGH POWER OR MAINS POWERED EQUIPMENT IN THIS WAY!