

Instructions for Building a CD Switch

Materials

2 CDs, aluminum pan, hole punch, one Therapeutic Device Replacement Cord with 1/8m-1/8m plugs*, scissors, wire strippers, double sided tape, 2 inches of electrician's tape, and 2 inches of Velcro.

*from Enabling Devices 800-832-8697, <http://enablingdevices.com/catalog>, Catalog #: 2588; each cord makes 2 switches

1. Use a CD to trace two circles on an aluminum pan.
2. Cut the aluminum pan on traced lines. You will end up with two aluminum circles.

Rub the ridges in the aluminum circles until they are as flat as possible.
3. Use a hole punch to make a hole at least 1/8" from the edge of each aluminum piece.
4. Find the mid-point of one Therapeutic Device Replacement Cord with 1/8m-1/8m plugs from Enabling Devices.

Use the wire cutters to cut the cord in half. This will give you two switch cords.

Work with only one cord half at this time. Set the other cord half aside for making a second switch.

5. A. *Note that each cord is actually made up of two wires.*
At the cut end, make a small cut between the two wires and gently pull the two wires apart for about 1 inch.
B. Use wire strippers (some wire strippers have notches—use the 20-22 notch size) to strip off about 3/4 inch of outer shield/casing off of each wire to expose copper wires.
6. Insert one bare end of wire through and around the hole of one aluminum circle, securing one wire to one aluminum circle (see completed wrapping of wire in step 7 photo).

Repeat with the other aluminum circle and wire.

7. Place a small piece of electrician's tape over the bare wires on both sides of each aluminum circle.

This secures the wire to the aluminum and allows no bare wires to be exposed. It's okay if the tape covers the punched hole.

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8. Place four or more 1” pieces of double-sided tape on one side of each CD, toward edges of CD.

Then line up the edges of a CD to the aluminum circle and press together. Trim any excess aluminum visible beyond CD edge.

9. Turn the CDs so the aluminum circles are facing each other and the wires are at the 3:00 position.
10. Now, pull the CDs apart so that the aluminum sides are facing up.

Place a 1” length of soft Velcro at the 3:00 and 9:00 position *on the aluminum side of one CD*. The Velcro strip placed at the 3:00 position will cover the electrical tape.

11. Repeat process described in step #10 for the second CD: place two 1” lengths of scratchy (hook) Velcro so these will align with the Velcro on the other CD (see step #12).
12. Place the two CDs together matching up the Velcro.

You can personalize the surface of your CD switch with different materials, such as a customized CD label, mirror, beads, stickers, felt, fur, or other textured materials.

13. Plug switch into battery-operated device.
14. Press the CD switch to activate the device.