

Assistive Technology Training Online

University at Buffalo - The State University of New York
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Switch Interfaces

The **battery adapter** can modify any battery-operated toy or device for switch activation. The copper wafer is placed against any positive battery end and the toy is turned on. The switch is connected to the jack end; the operation of the switch results in switch closure. Battery adapters come in 2 sizes: for AA and C/D batteries.



Battery Adapters (Ablenet, Inc.)


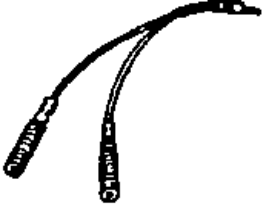
The **Environmental Control Unit (ECU)** shown is an example of an interface for any electrical (DC) appliance with an on/off switch. The unit is plugged into an electrical outlet; the appliance and switch are then both plugged into the unit. The switch activation turns the appliance on and off. There are other ECU systems that can provide control of more complex electronics such as telephone dialing, TV/VCR volume control and channel changing or controlling several items in any environment.



PowerLink 3 (AbleNet, Inc.)

Switch Latch is an interface used between the switch and the target device. One touch of the switch turns the device on. The device stays on until the switch is activated again.



<p>Timer is an interface used between the switch and a toy, game or other target device. The device will run for a set amount of time (from 1 to 60 seconds) after the switch is activated. The switch must then be re-activated.</p>	
<p>Switch Latch-Timer is an interface that offers both features: timer and latch. It can turn the tape player on for 5-60 seconds.</p>	 <p>Single Switch Latch and Timer (AbleNet, Inc.)</p>
<p>Series Adapter is an interface used between a target device and 2 switches. Both switches must be activated in order for the device to turn on. This is often used for cooperative activities, where 2 students must activate their switches at the same time; or for therapeutic goals such as bi-lateral hand movement.</p>	
<p>Jack Adapter is used to convert the size of the switch jack to match the size on the toy or interface.</p>	