

ADAPTING BATTERY-OPERATED TOYS FOR REMOTE OPERATION

Most battery-powered toys have a small OFF/ON switch in a not-too-prominent position. The switch is usually very difficult for the handicapped child to find and/or operate.

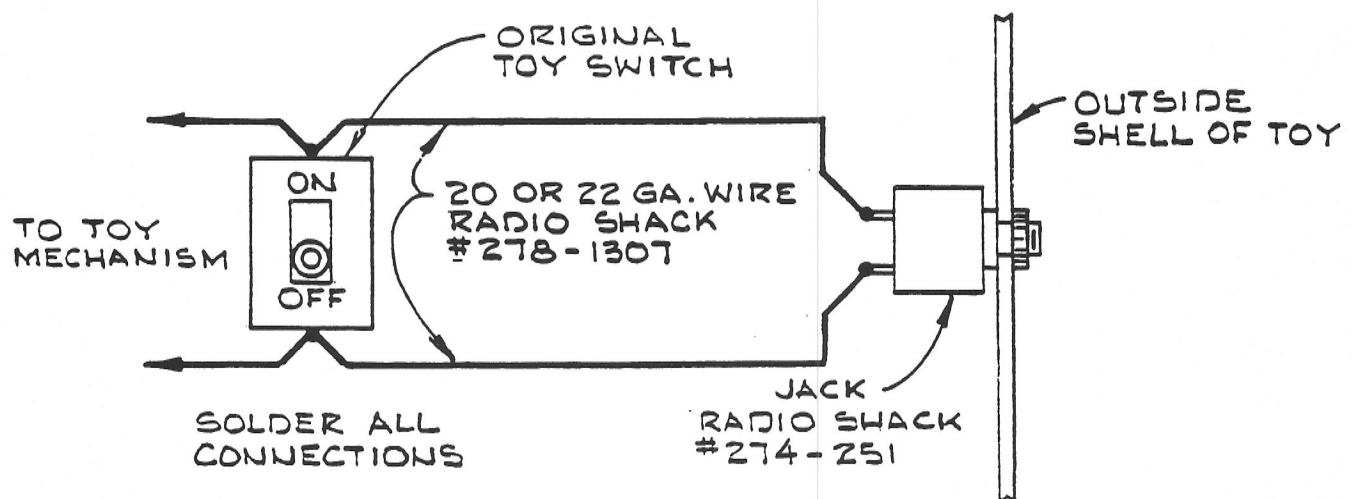
The objective is to provide an easy-to-operate remote switch that will allow the child to operate the toy.

To accomplish this modification, the toy must be partially disassembled to permit access to the switch wiring. There have been a few instances in which this was impossible, since the toy would be destroyed in disassembly. It is advisable to select toys that can be disassembled for modification.

A jack is positioned in the outer shell of the toy to allow a plug to be inserted and yet not hinder the operation of the toy, for instance, on the side, on the back or, in some cases on top of the toy. The jack recommended is Radio Shack #274-251 or equivalent. This jack uses Radio Shack plug #274-286 for the wire to the switch. Refer to Lekotek Plan #8 for details of the switch. The jack is mounted by drilling a hole in the toy of the correct size to permit the threaded neck of the jack to pass through and the locking collar screwed on the outside and secured.

From the jack positioned on the toy, solder a wire from each terminal to the wires on the switch of the toy. This arrangement does not change the switch on the toy and permits operation with either this switch or a remote switch. Keep connecting wires as short as possible and clear operating parts when the toy is reassembled.

SCHEMATIC WIRING DIAGRAM (Typical)



SCHEMATIC WIRING DIAGRAM (TYPICAL)

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TOYS FOR REMOTE OPERATION

Materials needed per toy:

- #20 gauge wire: Radio Shack #278-1307
- Jack: Radio Shack #274-251
- Rosin core solder

Tools needed:

- Small size soldering iron
- Set of small drill bits
- Electric drill
- Pliers
- Knife
- Screwdrivers