

Switch adapting battery toys

These instructions tell you how to adapt a battery toy for switch use. You will need a few basic tools and be able to use a soldering iron.

WARNING: Do not attempt to modify a mains operated toy!! These instructions are for your guidance only and assume you are competent to carry out the task.

What you will need:

A soldering iron and some solder.

A small amount of bell cable or speaker wire

Heat shrink sleeving or insulating tape

A 3.5mm in line mono jack socket (available from Maplins)

Some wire cutters / strippers or sharp knife

Screwdrivers to take the toy apart.

What to do:

Cut the length of cable required (approx 15cm should be enough).

Strip a few mm of insulation off each end of the cable, twist the strands together and tin them (solder them).

Unscrew the cover from the jack socket, thread one end of the new cable through and solder the two wires to the two terminals, screw the cover back on.

Remove the battery cover and whatever else from the toy to gain access to the wires that go to the battery compartment. Unsolder one of the wires (it doesn't matter which one).

Work out how the wires from the jack socket are going to get into the toy (you may need to file or drill a hole in the casing somewhere), thread the new wires through this hole.

Solder one of the new wires onto the battery terminal that you unsoldered from earlier, and solder the other new wire to the old wire that you removed before. (thread the heatshrink sleeve on before you solder)

See before and after pictures below if you are not sure.

Insulate the join with tape if you haven't used heatshrink sleeve.

Reassemble the toy and test.

