

# Battery Switch for Digitrax Throttles

There have been instructions on the Digitrax Yahoo group for adding a battery switch to Digitrax radio throttles, but they suggest drilling and filing a hole in the bottom of the battery compartment. I used a slightly different method.

All Electronics has miniature slide switches that fit well for this, SSW-46, at 5 for \$1. (As shipping is \$7 no matter what, you might want to buy extras and see what else you want. Some things come and go at All Electronics, all I can promise is that they are there now. Radio Shack also has two that seem to be the same size, 275-006 & 007, for \$2 each, and others, cheaper, with no size given.)

The photos show a UT4R. The same procedure was used for a DT402R, and other throttles seem to have the same cases. If you take the cover off of the battery compartment, you will see two small Phillips head screws in the lower corners. Remove these and slide the back upward and off. This makes it easier to make an opening for the switch and provides access to the battery terminal wires. Nothing falls apart when the back is removed from the throttle, the only concern is not to break the wires to the battery terminals.

I cut a notch that was a snug fit for the switch by cutting the sides with a fine saw, removing most of the excess material with end cutting pliers, then filing the opening to fit. The switch should be mounted flush with the inside of the battery compartment. These switches have three terminals for PC board mounting. Glue the switch in place with the terminals facing upward and bend them flat. I suggest that you glue the switch in place with epoxy, using as little epoxy as possible.

Unsolder one wire from a battery terminal, solder it to the switch, and run another fine wire from the switch to this battery terminal. Use the center and one end terminal on the slide switch.

Reassemble the throttle and you are in business. Now we just have to remember to turn the switch off!

CAUTIONS: 1) I glued the first switch in place with ACC, which got into the switch and glued everything together. 2) I have wood pockets for the throttles on my layout, with solid bottoms. These switches protrude from the bottom of the throttles, and the first one that I dropped into a pocket had the slide pushed up into the switch, destroying it. (It pays to have spares!) I have since drilled shallow clearance holes in the throttle pockets to clear the switches.

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