
SPST - SPDT - SPCO - SPTT - DPST - DPDT - DPCO

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Electronics specification and abbreviation Expansion
of
abbreviation British
mains
wiring
name American
electrical
wiring
name Description Symbol

SPST

Single pole, single throw

One-way

Two-way

A simple on-off switch: The two terminals are either connected together or disconnected from each other. An example is a light switch.

SPST-NO

Form A[4]

Single pole, single throw, normally open

A simple on-off switch. The two terminals are normally disconnected (open) and are closed when the switch is activated. An example is a pushbutton switch.

SPST-NC

Form B[4]

Single pole, single throw, normally closed

A simple on-off switch. The two terminals are normally connected together (closed) and are open when the switch is activated. An example is a pushbutton switch.

SPDT
Form C[4]

Single pole, double throw

Two-way

Three-way

A simple break-before-make changeover switch: C (COM, Common) is connected either to L1 or to L2.

SPCO

SPTT, c.o.

Single pole changeover

or

Single pole, centre off or

Single Pole, Triple Throw

Similar to SPDT. Some suppliers use SPCO/SPTT for switches with a stable off position in the centre and SPDT for those without.[citation needed]

DPST

Double pole, single throw

Double pole

Double pole

Equivalent to two SPST switches controlled by a single mechanism.

DPDT

Double pole, double throw

Equivalent to two SPDT switches controlled by a single mechanism.

DPCO

Double pole changeover

or Double pole, centre off

Schematically equivalent to DPDT. Some suppliers use DPCO for switches with a stable center position and DPDT for those without. A DPDT/DPCO switch with a center position can be "off" in the center, not connected to either L1 or L2, or "on", connected to both L1 and L2 at the same time. The positions of such switches are commonly referenced as "on-off-on" and "on-on-on" respectively.

Intermediate switch

Four-way switch

DPDT switch internally wired for polarity-reversal applications: only four rather than six wires are brought outside the switch housing.

2P6T

Two pole, six throw

Changeover switch with a COM (Common), which can connect to L1, L2, L3, L4, L5, or L6; with a second switch (2P, two pole) controlled by a single mechanism.
