

Magnetic Light Dimmer

T. Hopkins

A partial solution to the problem of leaving lighting on unnecessarily is to have a reset - table timer in place of a switch. However, the choice of delay is difficult, particularly when the room may be used continuously.

Ideally, it should be impossible to leave the room without turning out the light. One solution, shown in Fig. 1 is to build the circuit into a wall box and carry a small magnet on a keyring. When the magnet is placed over the reed switch, the lights are turned on and, if the circuit is mounted on a steel front panel, the magnet will stay in place for as long as is required.

The magnetic dimmer shown in Fig. 2 allows a choice of six different light levels depending on which reed switch is operated. The resistor values shown were chosen to suit the available triac. Other triacs may require changes to some of these values.

The reed switches used measured approximately 1.125" and were mounted on a piece of tinplate with epoxy resin (Fig. 3). The front was then covered with a thin layer of plastic. A magnet of 1/2" diameter was used to operate the dimmer.

