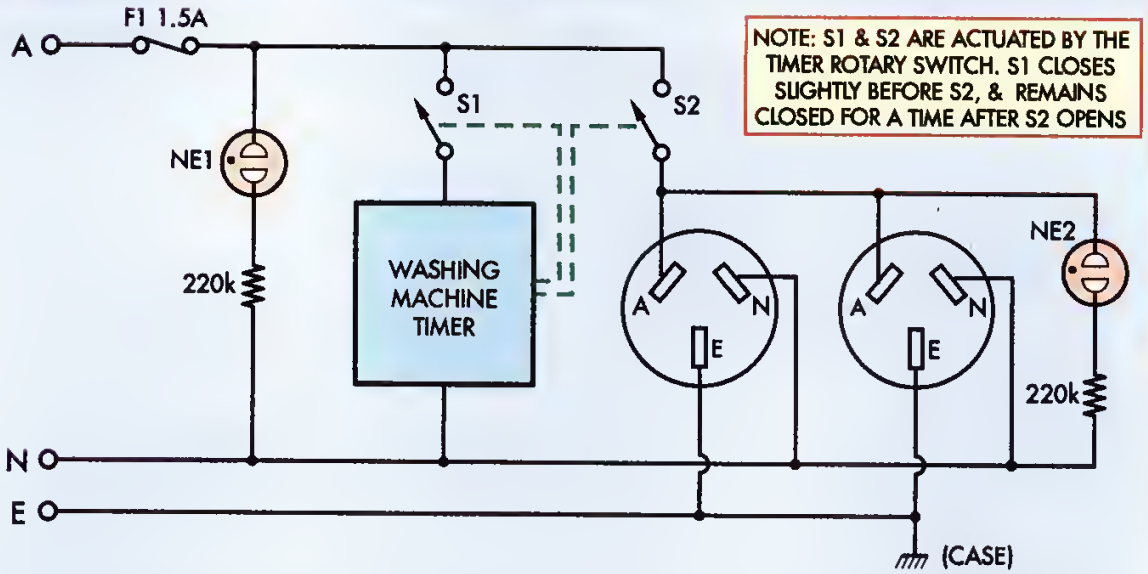
Recycling a clothes dryer timer

For those people who want a mains timer but were not attracted by the PICAXE circuit published in the Circuit Notebook pages of the October 2011 issue, this much simpler approach using a timer recycled from a clothes dryer may have more appeal.

These timers are based on a small AC motor (usually a synchronous type), geared down to rotate a shaft (and knob) at a very low rate. In the fully anti-clockwise (OFF) position, the shaft opens two 250VAC mains-rated switches. One of these feeds power to the timer motor on which it is mounted and the other feeds the dryer motor.

The switch that trips the dryer motor opens slightly before the switch that removes power from the timer motor. Turning the knob clockwise energises the timer motor and the load and how far you rotate it from the off position determines how long before it turns off.

The prototype was mounted in a suitable box with a mains fuse, a pair of mains neon lamps, a couple of 250VAC 3-pin outlets and a 3-core power lead. One neon indicator is connected across the mains input and the other across the output sockets.



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