

Multi-way switching for 240VAC lighting

Many homes and offices have a requirement for two-way switching of 240VAC lights, at the top and bottom of stairways, at different entrances to large rooms and so on.

The circuit for two-way switching uses two SPDT toggle switches, as shown in the accompanying circuit. It can be implemented using standard architrave switches available from lighting supply and hardware stores.

However, when a 3-way or multi-way switching system is required, the circuit is somewhat more complicated – see circuit. The switches at the end of the loop are SPDT types as before but the so-called intermediate switches are DPDT types. These are often only available from electrical wholesalers or to special order from hardware stores.

Note: 240VAC wiring in homes, offices and industry should only be installed by a licensed electrician.

SILICON CHIP

