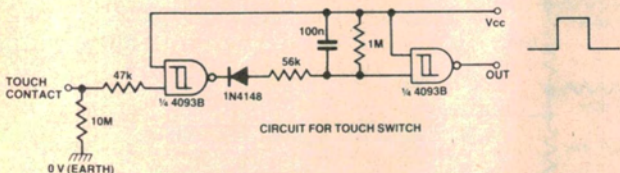


Making touch switches

One of the most difficult aspects of using touch switches in projects is the mechanical construction of the switch. This touch switch was designed by **Tim Wooler** of **Wahroonga NSW** to be used with the circuit found in the September 1981 ETI, page 51 Figure 5 (reproduced below). It is a method which is quick, easy and uses readily available parts.

The amount of water required should be put in a plastic container then the Sodium Hydroxide added to make the solution. After the piece is sprayed with varnish lettering may be put on the front and another coat of varnish applied to hold it in place.

The next item required is a piece of blank pc board of the same size as the piece of

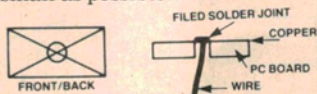


The touch plate is constructed of aluminium sheet. A piece of aluminium is cut out to the size required, then in the centre back a small indent is made by drilling with a 1/4" bit half way through the aluminium, as shown.



If a matt finish is required the front of the aluminium may be sanded with successively finer grades of wet and dry paper. Then the aluminium is placed in Sodium Hydroxide solution for a few minutes to etch the surface. It is then washed clean, dried and sprayed with a coat of clear matt varnish. Draino, used for cleaning drains, is about 60% Sodium Hydroxide, and is ideal for etching the aluminium. Great care should be taken with the Sodium Hydroxide solution to keep it off the skin and clothes.

aluminium. A 1/16" hole is drilled in the centre of the pc board. The wire for the switch is passed from the non-copper side through the hole and soldered. The joint is then filed down to make it as small as possible.



Now the switch is almost complete. All that remains is to glue the aluminium piece to the pc board, the hole in the back of the aluminium covering the solder joint on the copper side of the pc board. Tarzans Grip worked well here. The switch is now complete. To mount the switch on a panel a hole is drilled for the wire and the pc board is glued to the panel, as shown.

