ABSTRACT: An extension device for connection to a pivotal toggle of a wall located toggle switch to facilitate operation of the switch by a small child or another who is unable to reach to the toggle of the switch.
EXTENSION DEVICE FOR TOGGLE SWITCHES

This invention relates generally to electrical toggle switches. More specifically it relates to toggle switch knob extensions.

It is generally well known that conventional electrical toggle switches are mounted in the walls of a room at a sufficiently high elevation so as to be conveniently operated by adults, however such elevation is inconvenient for permitting the toggle switch to be used by particularly a small child and who occasionally is therefor obliged to climb on a chair or the like to gain access thereto and flip the toggle switch. This is an inconvenience to the child and he is subject to possibly falling off the chair as well as relocating the chair or other object upon which to stand and wherein the relocated chair or object may thus be a hazard upon which a person unsuspecting of its position may bump thereinto. This situation is objectionable and accordingly in want of improvement.

Accordingly it is the principle object of the present invention to provide an improved light switch for small children having self-contained means whereby the switch can be conveniently operated by both adults as well as small children.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a light switch for small children which comprises an accessory readily attachable to a conventional toggle switch knob that extends outwardly protruding from the toggle switch.

Another object of the present invention is to provide a light switch for small children wherein the accessory does not in any way mar or otherwise injure the toggle switch components and which does not present an unsightly appearance when installed.

Still another object of the present invention is to provide a light switch for small children wherein the accessory may be retained in a form of a kit so that a home owner or a householder may readily install it himself on any existing toggle switches.

Other objects of the present invention are to provide a tool which is simple in design, inexpensive to manufacture, rugged in construction, easy to use and efficient in operation. These and other objects will be readily evident upon a study of the following specification and the accompanying drawings wherein:

FIG. 1 is a side elevation view of the present invention shown installed and in operative use, and
FIG. 2 is a perspective view of the components of the present invention.

Referring now to the drawing in detail, the reference numeral 10 represents a light switch for small children according to the present invention wherein there is an accessory 11 that is readily attachable or detachable from a conventional toggle switch 12 installed at a conventional height elevation on a sidewall 13 of a room. The toggle switch 12 incorporates a toggle button or knob 14 that is normally pivotable upwardly or downwardly so to close an electrical circuit for turning on lights in the room or other electrical circuits. The knob 14 protrudes forwardly into the room out of a central opening 15 formed in a cover plate 16 fitted against the surface of the wall 13 and mounted by means of screws 17 attached to a switch mounted within the wall.

In the present form of the invention, the accessory 11 may comprise a kit which includes a cap or cup 18 mountable over the knob 14, the cap being attached pivotally free to a depending rod 19 sidable along a bracket 20.

The cup 18 comprises a generally cubical configured element having an opening 21 therein accessible from a rear side 22 thereof and into which the knob 14 can be introduced.

An eye screw 23 is threadingly engaged through a lower sidewalk of the cap, as shown at 24, the terminal end of the eye screw being pointed, as shown at 25.

In installing the device upon the toggle switch, the eye screw 23 is rotated sufficiently until the pointed end 25 thereof bites into the lower surface of the knob 14, thereby providing a rigid securement thereto. The eye screw 23 engages an opening 26 at the upper end of the vertically extending straight rod 19, the lower end of the rod being provided with an enlarged knob or handle 27 for being grasped within a child's hand 28.

A bracket 20 may be made of plastic material or other inexpensive and smooth material, the bracket 20 including a forwardly extending arm 28 having a vertical central opening 29 at the terminal end thereof through which the rod 19 is fitted. A slot 30 in the side of the arm provides access to the central opening and allow the rod 19 to be readily slipped into the opening.

A removable protective sheet 31 on a rear side of the bracket can be peeled off so as to expose an adhesive tacky surface 32 so as to quickly and easily attach the bracket to the wall 13 without the necessity of screws or nails.

In operative use, a child desiring to use the toggle switch needs only to pull on the knob 27, as shown in FIG. 1 of the drawing.

1. In a light switch for small children, the combination of a conventional toggle switch mounted on a sidewall of a room at an elevation convenient to adults and an accessory securable to said toggle switch, said accessory comprising a cap removably attachable to an exposed pivotable knob of said toggle switch, said cap being attached pivotally free to an upper end of a depending rod, a lower end of said rod having an enlarged handle for convenient grasp by the hand of a child, said cap having an opening therein extending from a rear side thereof, said opening being adaptable for receiving said toggle switch knob, an eyebolt threadingly secured to said cap, said eyebolt having a pointed end extending into said opening of said cap, said pointed end being adaptable for hitting accordingly into said toggle switch knob received within said cap, said eyebolt engaging an upper end of said rod, said accessory including a bracket comprising a one-piece member having a forwardly extending arm with a central opening extending vertically therethrough for receiving said rod, a slot communicating with said opening to permit introducing said rod into said opening of said bracket, and a rear surface of said bracket including a removable sheet of paper for exposing a tacky adhesive on a rear side of said bracket for mounting against said sidewall.