

Foot Switches for Machine Control

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Electronics & Prototyping

A foot switch operates a machine or circuit with the foot, freeing both hands for the work: momentary press-to-run or latching on-off models control drills, presses, saws and scroll saws. They improve safety by keeping hands on the work.

Key Features

- Momentary and latching action
- SPST, SPDT switching
- Rugged floor housings
- Cable entry and strain reliefs
- Current ratings for machine loads

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Operate scroll saws and drills hands-free
- Control presses and valves
- Provide quick stop for machines
- Activate demonstration circuits

Safe Operation

1. Position the switch at the operating point
2. Plug the machine into the switched outlet
3. Press to run, release to stop
4. Check the wiring and rating first
5. Keep the foot switch clear of tripping

SAFETY NOTES

- Match the switch rating to the machine load
- Position the switch so it cannot be pressed by accident
- Keep the pedal area clear
- Inspect the cable and switch regularly
- Use as the intended control, not a safety device

Maintenance & Consumables

- Check the contacts and cable
- Clean the housing of debris
- Test the action each session
- Tighten the wiring connections
- Replace worn switches

Specification & Buying Notes

A heavy momentary foot switch with an enclosure and cable suits scroll saws and drills. Choose latching models for pumps. Match the contact rating to the load.