



Note: New versions of this board use a green colored printed circuit board.

Overview

Looking for a novel puzzle to use in your escape room? Look no further! This specially designed controller allows one or more people to create a human chain across two conductive surfaces or objects to “connect” a circuit electrically and activate up to three output relays which can then be used to create a near infinite number of unique puzzles or challenges. Whether you are illuminating invisible ink with a UV light or unlocking an electromagnetic door or safe, the possibilities are endless.

Background

This is the original Body Light human conductivity switch created by Eastern Voltage Research in 2010 that continues to be our most popularly used escape room product. Our classic human chain controller features a 3A solid state output relay which can be used for LEDs, incandescent, or halogen lights as well as powering an external relay.

We have tested this human chain controller with up to eight (8) people. (See paragraph on Performance Factors)

Features

- Operating voltage: 12VDC nominal
- Output 1 – Solid state – 12V @ 3A (max)
- Two (2) status LEDs
- High quality removable terminal blocks
- Mounting holes for board mounting

Compatible Output Devices:

- Lights (LEDs, incandescent, halogen)
- Flicker LED controllers such as our Flicker 3.0
- UV Lights (perfect for revealing invisible ink)
- Electromagnetic door locks
- Pneumatic switches and solenoids
- PLCs, external microcontroller circuits / devices
- External audio devices (with input trigger)

Input Power Supply

Nominal input power supply voltage: 12VDC
Nominal input current for controller: 50mA (no loads)

Connect the positive of your +12V supply to TB1+
Connect the negative of your +12V supply to TB1-

To properly size the 12VDC power adapter, add the total current of the devices connected to the solid state relay output to the 50mA load of the controller. In most cases, a 12V, 1A adapter is sufficient.

Sense Input

The sense inputs are connected to two external conductive surfaces or objects (electrodes). When someone touches both of the electrodes with their hands and completes the electrical circuit, the controller will sense this connection and activate the output relays.

Additionally, more than one person can be used to create a “human chain” across electrodes placed at greater distances across a room. We have tested this controller with up to eight (8) people creating a long human chain. (See paragraph on Performance Factors)

LED Indicators

+12V LED – Indicates that the controller is enabled
Conduct LED – Indicates a “connection” has been made

Solid State Output (12V devices)

The solid state output does not require an external voltage source as TB3+ is already connected is already tied to the VIN+ input power supply. Make sure that your input power supply or adapter is rated for the current of the load being connected to this output. Any device connected to this output must be rated for 12V operation.

Solid state Relay specifications:

Output	Specification
Solid State Relay J5	12VDC, 3A max Open collector output Connect + of device to TB3+ Connect – of device to TB3-

Connect the positive of your device (LED, relay, etc...) to TB3+

Connect the negative of your device to TB3-

Performance Factors

The performance of the human chain controller sense input and the ability of the sense inputs to be “connected” through one or more human bodies is dependent on the following factors:

Electrodes

The size, geometry, and total surface area being touched by a human can affect the performance. Generally, the larger the surface area of an electrode, the better performance and conductivity of the circuit.

Electrode Contamination

Electrodes which have contaminants such as oil, dirt, and oxidation, will not conduct as well as clean electrodes and thus reduce overall performance. So it is very important always maintain clean electrodes.

Humidity

Higher humidity can both increase and reduce performance of the circuit. Hands are generally more moist with higher humidity and will provide better conductivity, however, it may also increase leakage current through shoes or clothing which will reduce performance.

Human Hands

One of the biggest factors to affect performance, which unfortunately is the least controlled, is the condition of a customer’s hands. Hands that are dirty, dry, or oily, will not conduct as well as clean, oil-free hands. This factor will greatly affect how many people can be together to form a human chain. Experimentation is key when designing and positioning electrodes within an escape room or similar application.

Line Voltage Safety Requirements

If this controller is being used in a commercial or other application in which the general public will be making contact with the electrodes, then an isolation transformer is required between the AC outlet and the power supply / adapter being used to provide 12VDC to the controller. In the rare event that the power supply or power adapter’s isolation fails, the isolation transformer will reduce the probability and / or severity of an electrical shock.

This is also the reason you may see orange colored outlets in hospitals or other medical facilities. The orange colored outlets denote that there is an AC isolation transformer installed on that particular circuit for safety.

Using AC Devices with Output Relays

Due to safety reasons, we do not recommend the use of AC line powered devices to be used with external output relays

connected to the TB3 output of this controller. Although relays are electrically isolated between the input coil and output contacts, although extremely rare, if that isolation fails, there could potentially be AC line voltage connected to the input sense electrodes.

NOTE: AC line powered devices do not refer to devices that use an AC power adapter where only 12VDC may be connected to the output relay terminals of the controller. AC line powered devices would mean actually having 115VAC connected to the output relay terminals of this controller with that switched 115VAC going directly to an output device. An example would be a standard 115VAC lightbulb for example or an electromagnetic lock powered with 115VAC.

Application Examples

Please refer to our Escape Room application guide for detailed hook-up diagrams and examples. This guide can be directly downloaded as a PDF from the Escape Room section of our website at:

<http://www.easternvoltage.com>

Additional Products

- Flicker LED Controllers
- Musical Tesla Coils
- Escape Room Products
- Lightning Detectors

Eastern Voltage Research provides a number of other exciting products as well. Flicker LED controllers work extremely well in conjunction with this Human Chain Controller.

Visit the website below for more information:

www.EasternVoltageResearch.com