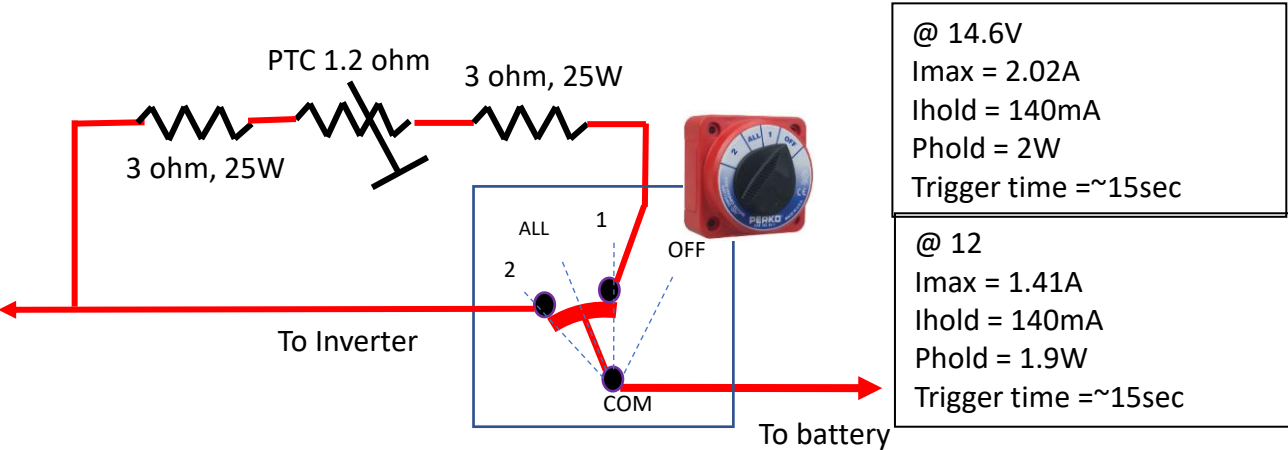


Inverter Disconnect with pre-charge

This circuit is designed as an inverter disconnect that allows the user to pre-charge the inverter capacitors before fully turning on the system.

12V SYSTEM



Operation:

Turn ON

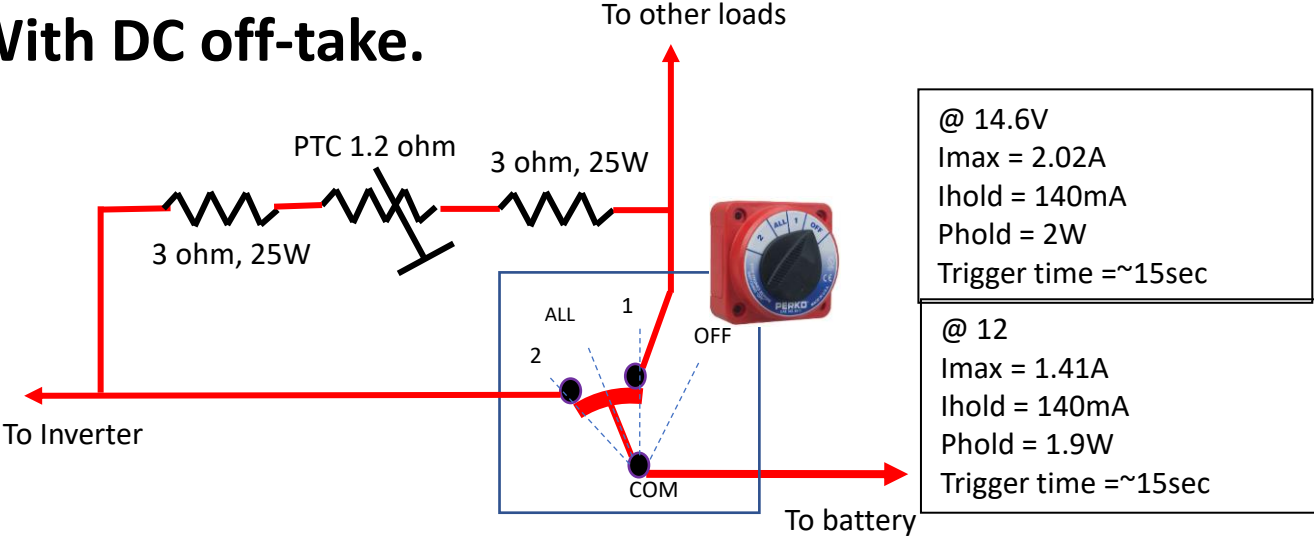
1. Ensure inverter is off
2. Turn switch to position '1' for ~1 second
3. Turn switch to position 'All' or '2'
4. Turn on inverter

Note: The PTC resistor is a safety that covers a miss-use of the switch. If the user leaves the inverter 'On' and the switch in position 1, there may be significant current going through the resistor and over-heating it. In this case, the PTC will heat up first and will significantly reduce the current after several seconds. If the switch is used properly, this should never happen and there will be almost no heat build-up.

Some (Many? Most?) Inverters are such that they would not cause this heat buildup ant the PTC is not needed. See the last two slides of this deck for details:

12V SYSTEM

With DC off-take.



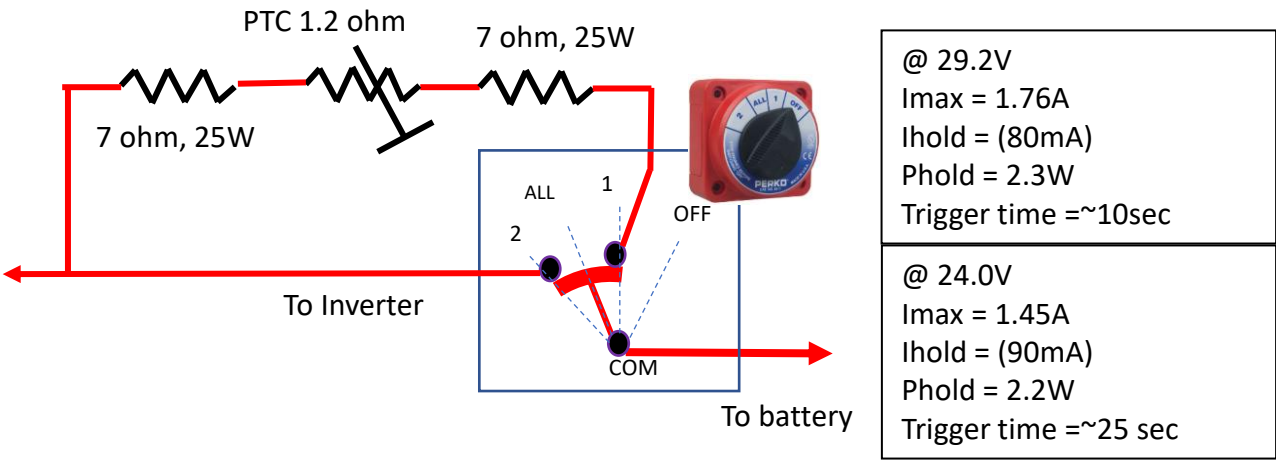
- Operation:
- Turn ON
1. Ensure inverter is off
 2. Turn switch to position '1' for ~1 second
 3. Turn switch to position 'All' or '2'
 4. Turn on inverter

Note: The PTC resistor is a safety that covers a miss-use of the switch.

If the user leaves the inverter 'On' and the switch in position 1, there may be significant current going through the resistor and over-heating it. In this case, the PTC will heat up first and will significantly reduce the current after several seconds. If the switch is used properly, this should never happen and there will be almost no heat build-up.

Some (Many? Most?) Inverters are such that they would not cause this heat buildup ant the PTC is not needed. See the last two slides of this deck for details:

24V SYSTEM



PTC specs

Bulk Part Number	Max. voltage	*1 Resistance Value at +25 °C	*2 Max. Current	*3 Hold Current		*4 Trip current		Dimensions (mm)		
Taping Part Number				+105°C	+85°C	-10°C	-40°C	D	H	d
PTGLCSAS1R2K3B51B0	D.C. 51V	1.2ohm±10%	5.0A	315mA	449mA	1168mA	1270mA	11.5	16.5	0.6
PTGLCSAS1R2K3B51A0										

Operation:

Turn ON

1. Ensure inverter is off
2. Turn switch to position '1' for ~1 second
3. Turn switch to position 'All' or '2'
4. Turn on inverter

Turn Off

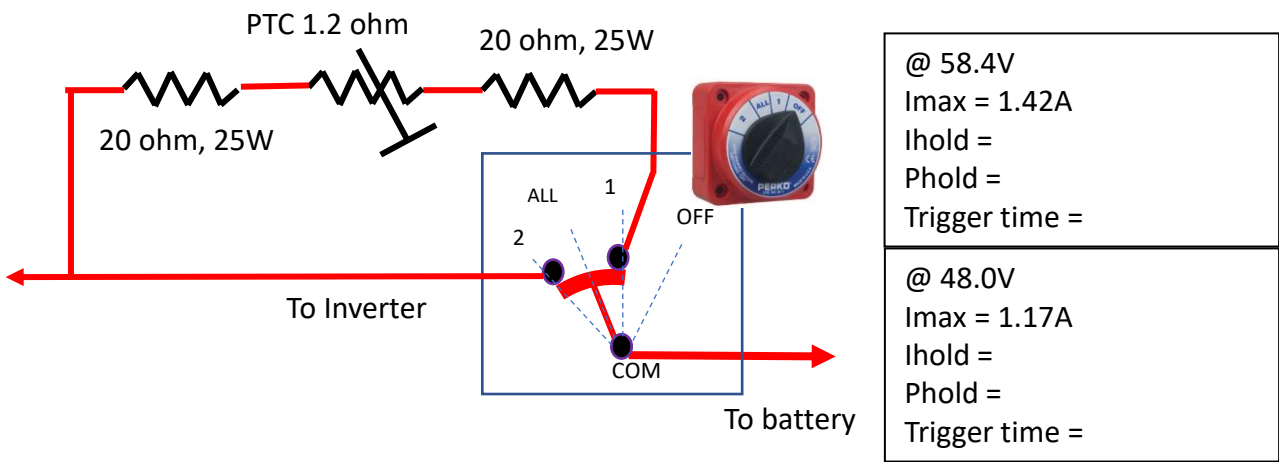
1. Turn off Inverter.
2. Turn Disconnect switch to 'Off' position.

Note: The PTC resistor is a safety that covers a miss-use of the switch. If the user leaves the inverter 'On' and the switch in position 1, there may be significant current going through the resistor and over-heating it. In this case, the PTC will heat up first and will significantly reduce the current after several seconds. If the switch is used properly, this should never happen and there will be almost no heat build-up.

Some (Many? Most?) Inverters are such that they would not cause this heat buildup ant the PTC is not needed. See the last two slides of this deck for details.

48V SYSTEM

(Warning: I have not built/tested this design)



PTC specs

Bulk Part Number	Max. voltage	*1 Resistance Value at +25 °C	*2 Max. Current	*3 Hold Current		*4 Trip current		Dimensions (mm)		
Taping Part Number				+105°C	+85°C	-10°C	-40°C	D	H	d
PTGLCSAS1R2K3B51B0	D.C. 51V	1.2ohm±10%	5.0A	315mA	449mA	1168mA	1270mA	11.5	16.5	0.6
PTGLCSAS1R2K3B51A0										

Operation:

Turn ON

1. Ensure inverter is off
2. Turn switch to position '1' for ~2 second
3. Turn switch to position 'All' or '2'
4. Turn on inverter

Turn Off

1. Turn off Inverter.
2. Turn Disconnect switch to 'Off' position.

Notice that this circuit requires a minimum of .185 amps during 'ptc hold' if the user leaves the inverter on and the switch in the '1' position. Otherwise the voltage on the PTC could exceed the spec of the device. The math works out that this should be OK, but I would feel a bit more comfortable with a higher max voltage spec on the PTC.

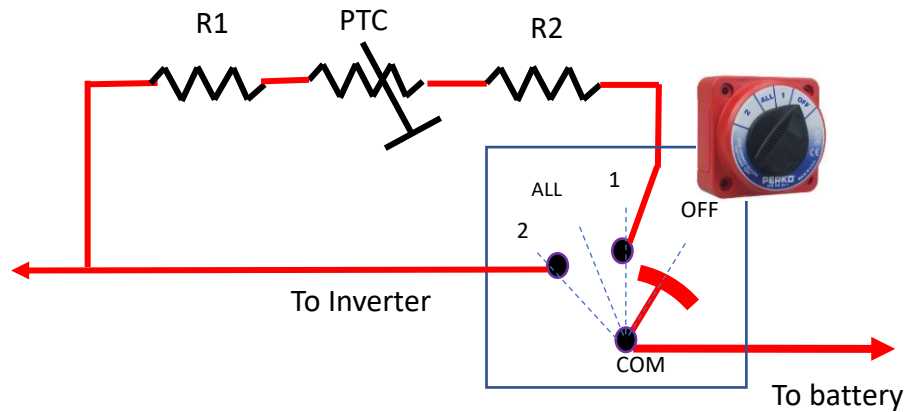
Some (Many? Most?) Inverters are such that they would not cause this heat buildup ant the PTC is not needed. See the last two slides of this deck for details:

Switch positions

The following shows the 4 positions of the switch. Note that in both the "ALL" and "2" positions, the inverter is fully connected

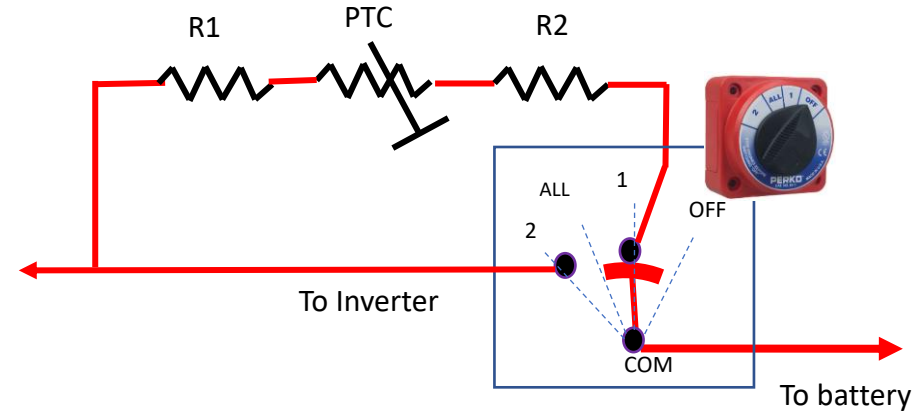
SWITCH in 'OFF' Position:

Pre-charge Disconnected, Inverter Disconnected



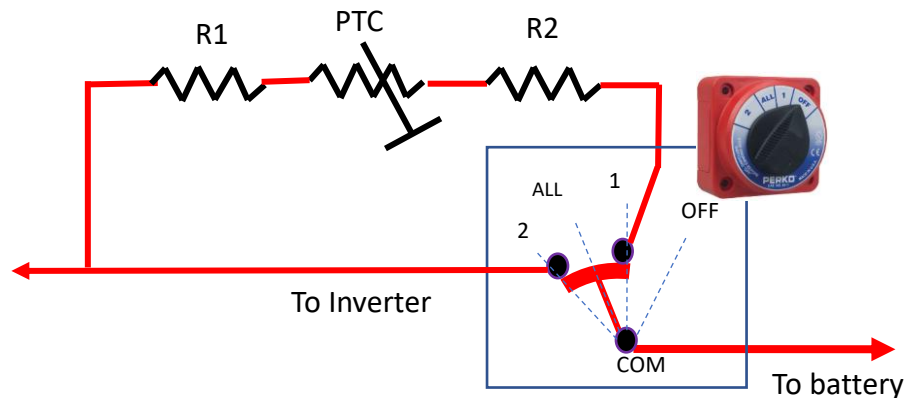
SWITCH in '1' Position:

Pre-charge connected, Inverter Disconnected



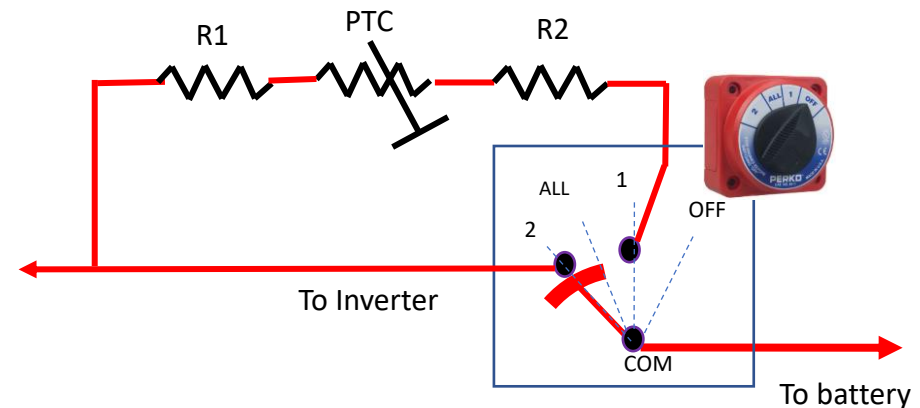
SWITCH in 'ALL' Position:

Inverter Connected, Pre-charge bypassed.



SWITCH in '2' Position:

Inverter Connected, Pre-charge Disconnected



Assembly

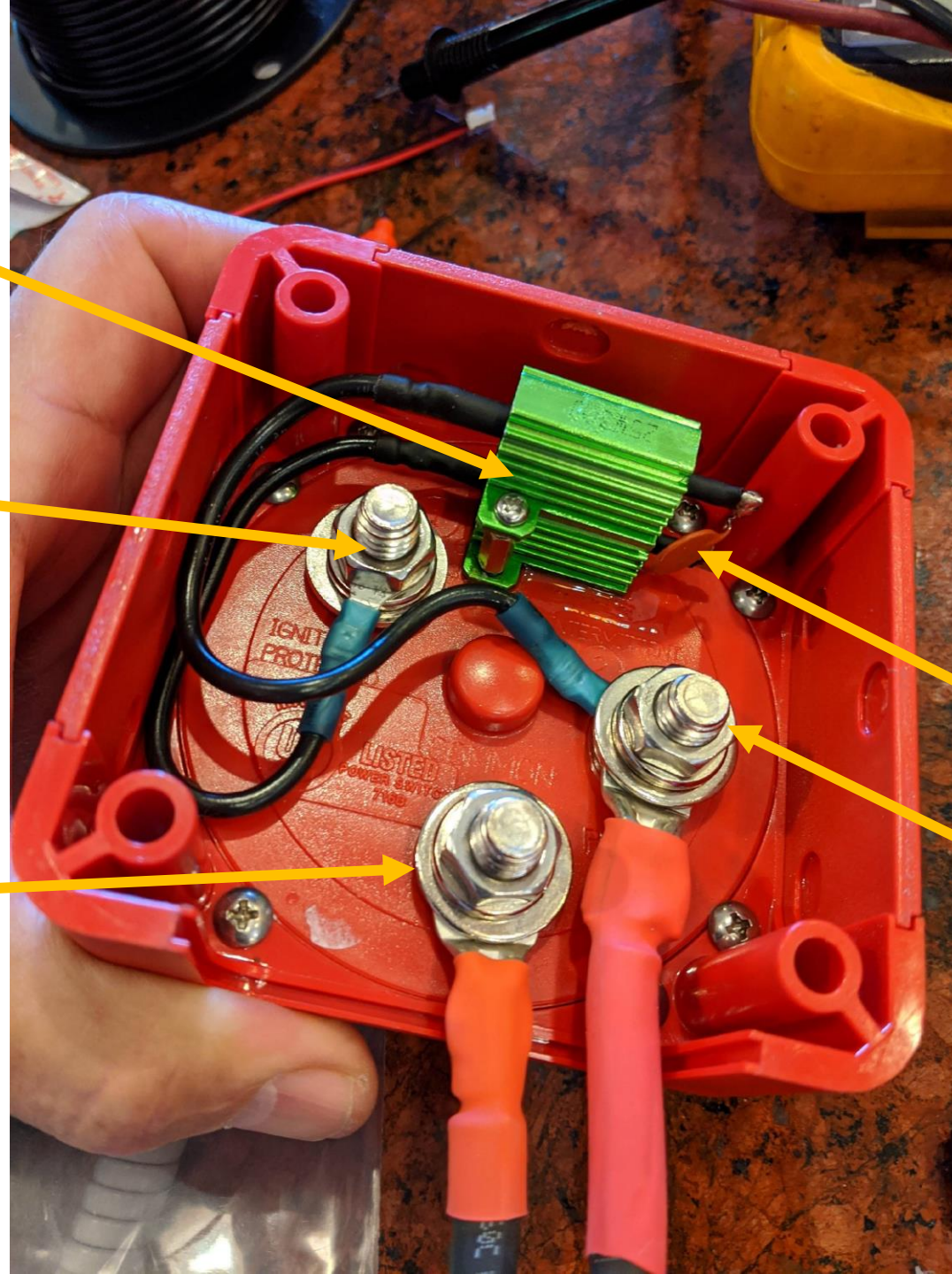
Two 25W resistors
Stacked and glued

Post 1

Common

PTC resistor
soldered between
resistors

Post 2



Label to help instruct the user



Parts

Perko Switch:

<https://www.ebay.com/p/1122213842>

Or

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/Perko-8511DP-Compact-Battery-Switch-7411/362536682888>

PTC Resistor: 1.2ohm, 5 Amp.

<https://www.mouser.com/ProductDetail/81-PTGLCSAS1R2K3B5A0>

3 ohm 25W resistor (12 V System)

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/25W-3ohm-Wirewound-Power-Resistor-Aluminum-Hosing-Chasis-Mount/401838767539>

7 ohm 25W resistor (24 V System)

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/US-Stock-2x-7-ohm-7R-25W-Watt-Aluminum-Housed-Metal-Case-Wirewound-Resistors/401396173511>

7/28/2020 UPDATE:

Note about the Positive Temperature Coefficient (PTC) resistor in the designs.

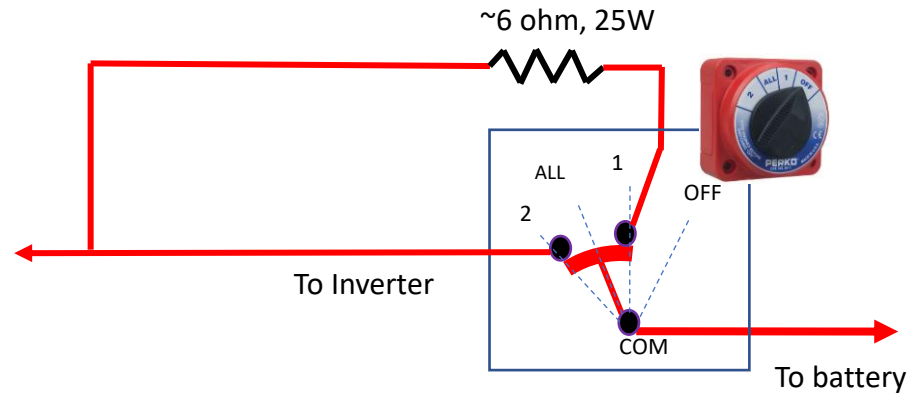
When I first developed this design, I was concerned about the case where someone leaves the switch in the “pre-charge” position and leaves the inverter on. The concern being that so much current would flow through the pre-charge resistors that they would over-heat. That led me to add the PTC as a way to limit the current if this were to happen.

I have since tested three different inverters and in each case, if the switch is in ‘pre-charge’ and the inverter is on, the inverter detects a low voltage condition and will not stay fully turned on. This means the pre-charge resistors never overheat. Consequently, the PTC is not needed for these inverters.

I do not know if all inverters will act like the 3 I have tested this with. Consequently I can not say the PTC is never needed.

The following slides show the design without the PTC resistor. If you choose to build without the PTC resistor, you should test the ‘error’ condition to ensure it is safe. Also note that if there are other loads down stream from the disconnect switch, there may be a need for the PTC due to the current going to those loads.

12V SYSTEM (No PTC)

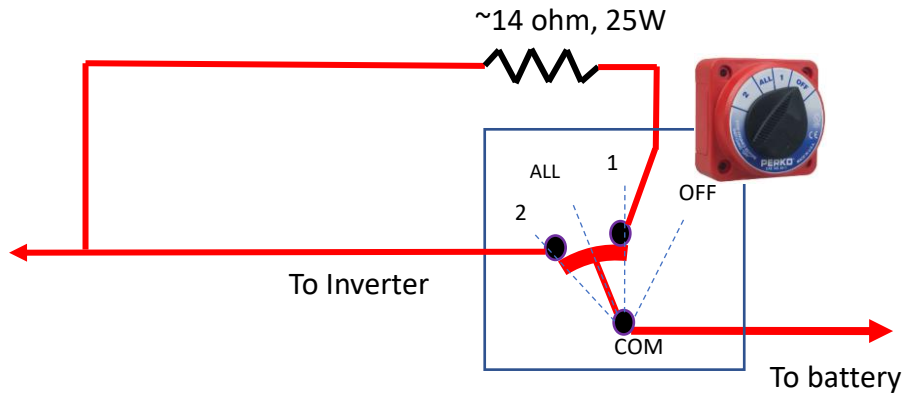


Operation:

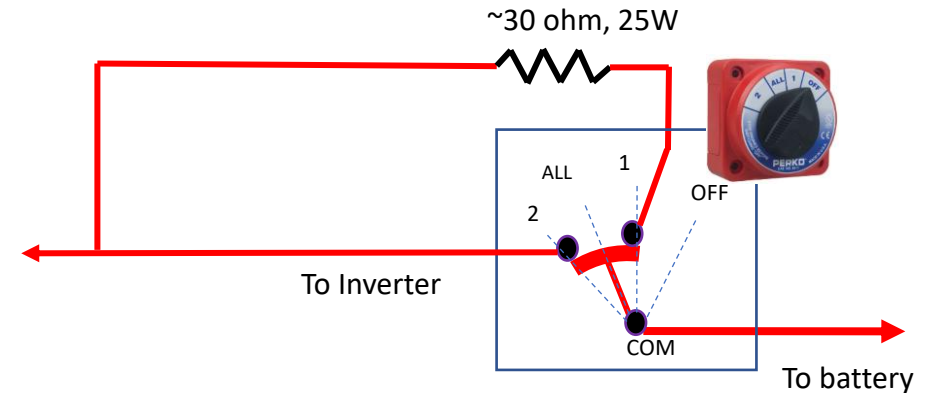
Turn ON

1. Ensure inverter is off
2. Turn switch to position '1' for ~1 second
3. Turn switch to position 'All' or '2'
4. Turn on inverter

24V SYSTEM (No PTC)



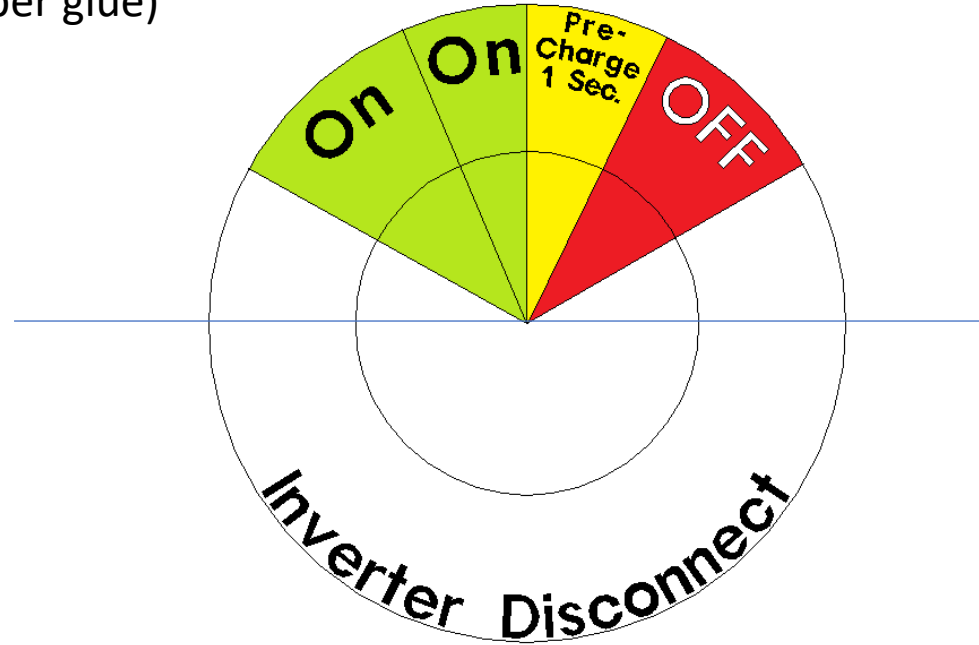
48V SYSTEM (No PTC)



Note: The values of the resistor is not critical. Any resistor close to the values shown should work fine. The fact is anything from 3-40 ohms would work for any of the 3 voltages. I chose these values to keep the pre-charge very fast while keeping the peak surge to 2 or 3 amps.

Label Instructions:

1. Open this PDF in Adobe Reader
2. Print 2 copies of this page (Be sure to select 'Actual Size' in the print dialog)
3. 'Laminate' top half of one with clear packing tape (both sides)
4. 'Laminate' bottom half of one with clear packing tape (both sides)
5. Cut out top and bottom halves (including inner circle)
6. Glue on to switch. (I used super glue)



This label is designed to fit the PERCO 8511 'compact' selector switch.

History

26 June 2020 update:

- At request of a forum member I added a circuit design for 48 volts.
Warning: I have not built/tested the 48 Volt design.
- Added comments on how to build the circuit without the PTC thermistor.

28 July 2020 update

- Expanded on building the circuit without the PTC thermistor. (It is not needed in many (Most?) situations)

8 August 2020 update

- Updated link to PTC in the parts list.

5 October 2020 update

- Added slide showing the connections in the four different switch states. (this helps explain how the circuit works)
- Added label and printing instructions for Perco 8511 switch.