

Switch Mats

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Switch Mats

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A switch mat is simple a switch that takes on the look and feel of a door mat and is triggered when stepped on. My inspiration comes from a poster board switch mat from [Allen's Halloween Page](#). Another good source for professional mats is [B.T. Productions' Terror by Design](#).

The following pictures and text demonstrate building a switch mat out of more durable materials than the aforementioned "poster board" switch mat. The materials are a little more expensive, but well worth it.



For the mat, I used a clear plastic car mat set purchased at Menards for ~ \$5.00. I was able to create two mats, one from the front floor mats and one from the rear seat floor mats. As you would expect, the front floor mats are larger and longer than the rear seat ones.

Figure 1-1

For the conductor, I used aluminum heating duct tape, also from Menards for ~ \$5.00. The tape is simply aluminum foil with a sticky side. For the nonconductor or separator material, I used a thin Styrofoam insulation tape or protector. It is used to separate the wood frame from the masonry block on new home foundations. I'm not sure what the official name of the tape is, but it is about 4 inches wide and is blue and is similar to a foam wrapping.



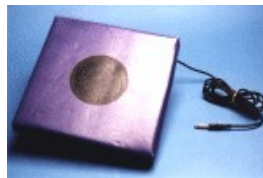
Figure 1-2



Figure 1-3

A 12 VDC to 120 VAC relay was used to allow the switch mat to trigger a 120 VAC connection to power whatever effect I planned to use. The power supply to the relay is an old 12 VDC transformer. I housed the relay and AC input/output in electrical boxes.

Switch Mat Resources



[Terror By Design](#)

[Mr. Scary Productions](#)

[Starlight & Magic](#)