

# Installing and Adjusting your SoftSwitch™

## Attaching:

With the SoftSwitch™, only a single support is normally needed behind one's head. Previous separate supports that were used for switches can probably be eliminated, thus simplifying the hardware.

The SoftSwitch cushion is attached to this support using the eyelets and the cord provided, to stretch the cushion against the curvature of the head rest. The zipper should face towards the rear.

Next, the seating position should be checked for comfort. Usually some form of seating restraint will still be desirable, to keep the user from sliding downwards, away from the headrest and away from the SoftSwitch.

Next, the headrest may be adjusted for maximum comfort, usually positioned to lift gently against the underside of one's head. It is informative to experiment with this oneself, by reclining in an easy chair, and resting one's head and neck on the cushion, as one might do on an airplane. The seating position should stay comfortable for extended periods of time.

## Connecting:

The air tube from the cushion connects to the switch box, which may be tucked inside a pocket in the chair. The switch box in turn is plugged into the computer using the standard audio cable provided.

The SoftSwitch™ provides switch closures each time the cushion is pressed. It will not remain switched "on" for more than a few seconds, despite continuous pressure. Your EZ Keys software should be set to its default "interrupt" mode of accepting switch signals. With your software running, your computer should make a "click" each time the cushion is pressed.

The only recommended change to the EZ Keys software settings is to slow down the speed of the Radar Mouse™ as far as possible. Use ctl-M to reach the main screen, click Mouse, Radar Mouse, Radial Speed = 1).

## Adjusting: (usually unnecessary)

The sensitivity of the SoftSwitch is adjustable. However, we strongly recommend waiting to do this until some experience has been gained. Then it can be pragmatically decided whether a change in sensitivity would improve the performance, and importantly, whether the change should be an increase or a decrease in sensitivity.

If an adjustment is to be made, the first one to consider is moving the O-rings, to uncover a larger or smaller air-bleed hole. Uncovering different-size holes changes the response time of the switch. It affects how sharply one must press on the cushion, and it also affects how long the switch can be held on, before it will switch off by itself. There are three settings of the air bleed:

Left hole uncovered: **LOW sensitivity.** The cushion must be pressed more aggressively, and it will ignore slow unintentional body movements. With this setting, the switch cannot be held on for as long a period of time.

Center hole uncovered. **NORMAL Sensitivity.** Best for most users. Shipped this way.

Right hole uncovered. **HIGH sensitivity.** The switch may be held on for longer periods of time, and will respond even to slow and gentle body movements. However, with this setting, the switch may become overly sensitive to unintentional body movements.

A second adjustment is provided, that changes the force needed to operate the switch. This adjustment is made using a small

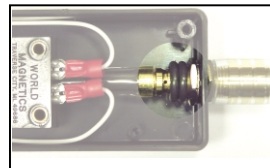
screwdriver to turn the small brass screw seen in the highlighted area in the bottom photo. However, making this adjustment is discouraged, since it is seldom necessary, and also because it is not quite as easy as it is with the O-rings to return the screw to its original setting.

If the adjustment screw is slowly turned inwards, clockwise from the factory setting, a point approximately one-half turn in will be reached where the switch will turn on and stay on continuously. If the screw is then backed outwards only one-eighth to one-fourth of a turn from this point, the switch will become about twice as sensitive as before. On the other hand, if the screw is backed outwards one or two full turns, then the switch will become about half as sensitive as before. If you aren't sure about this adjustment, then it should be returned to its original setting, one-half turn CCW from the point where the switch just starts to continuously stay on.

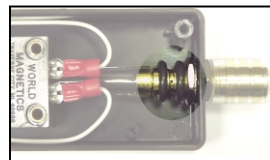
## Maintenance:

The SoftSwitch uses no batteries, and requires little or no maintenance. To remove the cushion's cover for cleaning, first pull off the plastic tube, and take care to prevent water or dirt from entering either opening. The self-inflating bladder may be repaired if ever necessary, using a camping-store Thermarest, repair kit. While the SoftSwitch is designed to be extremely reliable, nonetheless it must not

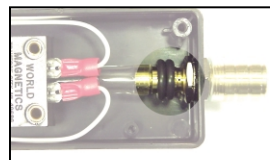
be used where any failure might place a user at risk.



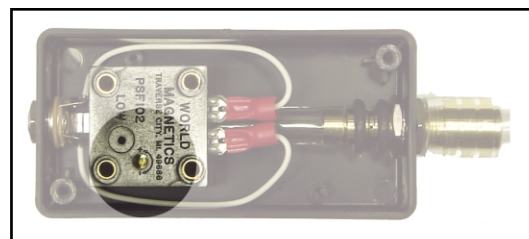
Low Sensitivity



Normal Sensitivity



High Sensitivity



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