This Sheet Has Been Replaced

ABSTRACT

Electric switch fittings

Electrical light switches are commonly employed when it is actually so dark that the switch itself can barely be seen, and it has therefore been suggested that each switch be fitted with a small, inexpensive light source by which the switch can be seen even in complete darkness. One such suggestion is that the subject of our British Patent No: 2,251,980 relating to a behind-the-switch mounting plate that is constructed partly as an annular light guide and partly as an annular light diffusion member extending more or less evenly around the switch plate.

This earlier illuminated mounting/backing plate, or surround, may be designed either as an *ab initio* component of a switch/surround combination or as a separate item for subsequent fitting to an already-installed switch; when it is the former, to ensure that the result meets all the required safety standards the present invention provides a switch unit (11) wherein, first, the internal electrical connections are in the form of a printed circuit board (41) to which the other components are both physically and electrically mounted and attached, and second, the illuminated surround (21) is spaced from that board by a physical insulating barrier (31) so as to prevent any significant possibility of the surround being electrically or thermally influenced by the currents and voltages in the board.