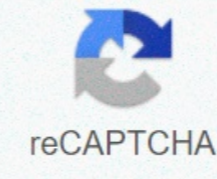




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occupier).6...two outlets in the neighborhoods It is part of the same circle as all bedroom outlets. Is this unusual?7...one of the bedroom 2 box ring romaxis is 14-3, but it is used to run a controlled switch port in the bedroom, which is the original construction.8 ... When I lived there before, I had no electrical problems of any kind. Since I moved into the unit in 2014, not only does the pole connection 3 not work properly, but the 2 ring box in the living room has a bad key on/off and/or a bad dimmer switch that is used to control the track lighting that exploded (since it was replaced with a pull chain roof fan Two years ago that always worked fine). I replaced all the ports (some were loose). And I had a glitch in the design pfe stab lock (which I still have and I would get tested, but where? definitely not UL!) the painting box was replaced in 2015. I also link the causes in 2 ring boxes in the bathroom and hallway (the bedroom is next).9...all four black hot wires are pigtailed together in the bedroom 2 ring box, with black wire spears connected to the keys. Is this kosher?10...all four floor wires in the hallway 2 ring box are now connected together. But I originally found them with only one connected one (2 times). All four floor wires in the bedroom 2 ring box are properly connected together, but are not based on swit: ches (which I intend to correct soon)11...one traveler that is plugged into the bedroom 2 ring box is a black catalytic that is plugged into all four black wires romis (see #9). So, if you hook one of the 4 neutral roms for it, you will have to relabel it with a black electric tape to indicate that it is now hot. But first, I have to do a continuity test to determine the other end of that same wire in the other (lobby) 2 ring switch. You may have said that the traveler's wire should connect directly from one 3 pole switch to 3 other pole switch (but connect the broken connections in between OK). But I think you said that under no circumstances, connecting travelers indirectly stimulates all four white neutrals, or black hots that are pigtailed together inside the box, if you understand you correctly. Anyway, I hope this will help me in my situation. Thank you very much for what you have said to me so far. Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on July 20, 2017: I'm sorry, but I can't answer the question about the 1977 code - that was before my time. If you have 2 14-2 wires running between the keys, and have wooden studs (almost certainly) and plastic boxes (probably) then you can make it work with what you have. You will have to figure out which cable is in each switch box and then color the ends of one white wire. Make it any color but white or green. At this point you have all the wires you need to make 3 road keys and light work. But are you sure that someone in the past didn't use what was to be To run something else? Port or something? Marshall on July 20, 2017: He lives in an old apartment building in 1977 in the United States. The entry light in my bedroom is controlled by two triangular road keys that are housed inside two separate double ring light switch box. The way it is now, one key must be left in position even all the time, in order to switch the other to turn the light on or off. But the two adapters must be able to work completely independently if they are each other. There is no cable 14-3 used for triple communication. There are only 14-2 cables available for this connection. Black wires are used for the common one of the passengers on the three pole keys, but the other passenger is missing. But I suspect it was originally a neutral white stimulating contact from the other passenger station on each switch until the four neutral wires all tied together in each of the double ring boxes. I know this does not meet the current code, but did you meet the newest code back in 1977? My real question is do I ever have a new wire 14-3 add to the circuit that has a safe 3 pole connection switch? Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on March 22, 2017: Hello Angela: You seem to have a very old house and this could be a problem. If the wires are romex (two or three insulated wires encased in the outer hold) you could replace the box with old work or cut into a plastic box - this is not a difficult thing to do and it's very inexpensive. If the wires are not Romex, but the old door handle and tube, it is not something you really want to deal with, so if you can not see that all these wires are closed together in the outer gland, or each wire enters the box separately, do not try it. Outside of that, the only thing left is to protect those bolts on the side - I'm not aware of any keys available for the day with screws on the back. One possibility is to use the electric tape and wrap the entire switch, go to the side, across and around the top completely, complete the circuit several times, and cover those nails with several layers of tape. Many electricians will do this as a matter of course. But if the nails are already touching, this is probably not a real good solution, and movement over the years can wear a hole in the tape. Best have to cut a rigid piece of plastic (not a piece of plastic bag), as thick as possible, slide along with the switch, keep the screws away from the box wall. Do both sides of the switch. There are also insulating materials available, similar to what is made of circuit board, which will work as well and very thin. Angela Schmidt on March 21, 2017: We have a three-way key in our bathroom for light, fan and night light. We decided to put in a new one as we did re-bath and wanted colors to match. The old switch had screws on the back of it, but the new one had metal screws on the They touch this metal box, causing it to ignite when it turns on the power. What can we do? (Hopefully that makes sense - I don't know anything about wiring.) Thank you! Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho, January 11, 2017: You can't do this with the keys to three ways. Consider that if they are both down, and light off, you will have to turn both of them into a position up to turn it on, defeating the purpose of switching three ways. What you can do, though, is set them so that they are either up or both to be on - when they are opposite each other the light is out. Wire them, try it and see what happens. If it's not what you want, either flip one or reverse the traveler's wires on just one of them.ddevol47@gmail.com on January 1, 2017: this is no more than a comment of a question. I think I got a few years back a coworker showed me a way to wire three way turned so that you'll always have two triangular road keys in the bottom position when you turn off and two in position up when on. If he did that he looked at the time as he did, I would like to know how I think it is not possible. I'm right I just wasn't so trying to. Your article was a thank you for all your insight and knowledge. Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on November 10, 2016: The best you will be able to do is wire port to a shared terminal from switch instead of passenger terminals. If the next power in the port will be on all the time, if the light will port go and off. But there is another problem as well. Unless you can fully guarantee that the white wire is neutral (and it may not be) the wire may be a port in a chain with light and it will not work properly. If you understand it correctly, this white wire is finished on the switch: if this is not neutral, what you are trying to do will not work as you wire and light in the chain port. It is dangerous in this way and it must not be done. Unless there are additional wires of the three mentioned, all in one cable, you can not make a work port. There must be an extra cable, with white and black wire in it, in the box to make the port work at all. Rick on November 10, 2016: Hi Dan, I have a light key on my stairwell wall at the top (level two of the house) and at the bottom (1st level of the house). Works as a key 2.2. Turn on the ascent, turn off once or turn on the top floor to get off and stop once down. Any way... I put the dopping port on the other side of the wall of the light key at the bottom of the stairs, intended to power the light switch. The light switch has 3 wires and a ground connection. One red, one hot black, one neutral white (all wired from the back of the switch) and floor wires to screw box. I'm wired double expecting to work but it has some When I turn on the light switch, the power on the dolog explodes. When I turn off the light switch, the power turns on to the dolog. I've turned the wires around but still hasn't had success. I didn't notice but if I touch the neutral switch light to screw the ground everything works like I expect. Can you help shed some light on this? Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on March 27, 2016: Pete, you'll have a power line in this box, plus at least 3 wires out. One for each light. It will be possible to put two of them on one 3 romis wire, though, using black and red as switching legs (one for each light) and neutral. Does this question answer on March 27, 2016:1 3 Light Switch in box 2x4 and I want all its switchmotes light on October 11, 2015: Good job!Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on March 29, 2014:Article 404.2 (C) is what you're looking for. For the lightning control controlroads provided by the general purpose branch circuit on the ground, the circuit connector must be provided on the ground for the controlled lighting circuit at the replacement site and thanks to pat: 3 Keys to the Road isn't really that tough, just a little different than most people used to think about switches.donald on March 29, 2014:1 He was just looking to see if the code was called for a specific wire color for travelers and happened on your site. I am pleased to see that there are individuals out there who take the time to describe the work of the triangular circle in as understandable detail as you have. Patons on the shoulder. I have a question what article calls for there to be neutral in each switch box? I haven't been in the book for some time, and it makes sense to me. However it would be beneficial to be able to show customers they have to pay more for a job! Thank you. Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on March 05, 2014: You will need to install the new 4 switch in the way between two of the 3 road switches. Between the meaning of electrically, not necessarily naturally. You will need 12-3 of 3 way, to route 4 and on to the other route 3. Instructions and charts are available here: on March 05, 2014:1 You have 3 road switch that works properly in my basement. I want to add another key, to make it 4 way, between the two existing keys. I have a 12-3 run from switch to switch. The power to the light comes from one key with 12-2. Is that possible without taking Drywall? Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on March 02, 2014: It doesn't look as if your motion sensors are 3 way. Are you quite sure they are? In addition, the old keys, if 3 way, had three stations on them, in addition to the ground, to have all the wires. Two black wires are not enough - what are the other wires/colors in the boxes? Jacob on March 02, 2014:1 You have 3 way in my My route 2 new motion sensors have 3 red black and ground but the old keys have 2 black wires and I know one witch is common but with only 3 wires how do I connect 4 wireDan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on December 27, 2013: Almost certainly in one or another of the common wire keys has been switched with the traveler. Check the switch where the power arises and check that the first one then the other traveler is powered when the switch is flipped. If not, one of the travelers is exchanged with the authority here. Then check in the other switch that can turn power, or not, regardless of the traveler is hot, to the common wire. If not, one of the wires is exchanged with the common go to the light fixture. From your description, the problem lies in the power switch. This switch must always produce power in one of the two travelers. Jerry Leviner on December 27, 2013: My problem after wiring for a new light with two 3 way switches is that if all of the keys are down then the light won't come in any of the switch. It loses power in non-power switching! What did I do wrong? Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on June 26, 2013: If you put both a black fixture and a wire to the black wire of the circuit cutter the best thing that would happen is that it will blow the breaker. Most likely, in residential construction, it will cause each metal of the fixture to become hot whenever the light is turned on. Touching both the light and the ground source like a sink faucet will be shocking. So, it is not ok at all to put the floor wires to the black wire. If the house does not have the earth wires, simply bend the fixture ground back into the box. The primary purpose of the floor wire there is to blow up the crusher if the fixture is somehow faulty and the black wire is to touch the metal parts of the fixture somewhere inside the fixture. As long as the fixture is in good shape (presumably a new fixture is) there will be no problem.Philip on June 26, 2013:1 You have a friend doing work in my bathroom that has old wires coming from the circuit cutter. The new lighting device we add has a ground wire and stated that it would be acceptable to twist the ground wire into the black wire. Is that right; Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on April 20, 2013: Yes, that would work well. See the article on four road keys for wire diagrams. Just keep adding more than 4 road keys to the chart, always between two 3 road keys. There will be 2 new three ways, one at each end a row of keys. One 3 way will have incoming power and the other will have the same light feed cable.14 Gauge wire is fine, as long as it is fed from 15 amp valves. Do not use 14 gauge wire on a circuit with 20 amp breaker. ... Article on 4 Road switches.bob on April 20, 2013: I need to power one light of seven or eight different locations using 3 way and 4 road keys using 14/3 wires I can do it manyDan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on November 29, 2012:Amshas, I'm not sure what I'm referring to. If you can be more specific in your needs and what you are trying to achieve, maybe I can help you out.amshad on November 27, 2012: This is useful but I need 3 way 3 switcDan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on September 13, 2012: What I'm missing is that there is no on or off with the three-way switch. When the switch is above, the shared terminal is connected to one passenger, when the switch below the shared terminal is connected to the other passenger. There is no stop position. One passenger terminal or the other is always connected to the shared passenger terminal. Wiring charts basically only show different styles of running cables physically; Passenger stations are always connected to the passenger terminal on the other key - never with the light or energy received. Robert on September 13, 2012: I'm sorry, but these four wires all digram seems to me the same thing. That's not an independent connection. If the first switch on the second switch work correctly, if the first switch is off the second switch does not work. I'm not looking for a solution like Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on July 11, 2012: Thank you for the compliment. This switch may seem complicated at first, but the heart is actually very simple. The best thing about them is that they always electrically connect themselves regardless of the physical reality of the running wire. Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on February 23, 2012: If you have three white wires to one side then they are either neutral wires or causes. Any hot position to the same side as either neutral or ground will immediately blow the valves or crusher. With more information I may be able to offer more concrete advice. Is this the old (pre-1950s) knob and wire tube? Are there cables in the box that contain (or more) wires in each cable? Are there any wires in the box that are tied together? Does this have to be a switch, with half-hot all the time and half a switch? Are the wires old enough to suffer from discoloration, at least to the point that black has become gray or dirty white? So now I see a box with three neutrals and only one wire I can't imagine any application where this would be useful except maybe the knob and tubular wire, where there were no cables. All regular house wires have at least black and white in each cable. Or this is a non-house with wire entering the box via the canal (pipe)?Fee on February 23, 2012:rewiring old 3 white wires to 1 side of port 1 black to the hot side - I can only assume that 1 of the white wire should be hot as well,since the wont port work?thanksDan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on January 03, 2012:@ Stefan - if you're sledding the white wire to the hot, then it's hot, not, and it should be colored at both ends so that no one will mistake the actual neutral. Black ribbon is fine for this purpose. Understand that it is not the color that makes neutral; Those wires or electrons flowing in do not know what color of insulation it is. People do, though, that's why the NEC has decided to be all white neutral - when you're scattering this white wire to hot black is no longer neutral and shouldn't be white. Interestingly, the rule is very important that the NEC will not let you color the white wire. You can change the color from white to anything else (except green), but never say, black, to white. The only exception is #4 and large wires, which are so large that the only use in most homes is from the street to your home. Stefan on January 03, 2012:Thanks for chart 4. Any other book I looked at at Home Depot or online showed chart 4. Once I plug everything in, I color a neutral encoding that has been linked to the hot with black tape. I hope this is the right thing to do, since it has been neutral to hot acts like hot when the appropriate combo conversion is performed. Did you do right by marking the hot neutral in the second switch box? Thanks.Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on January 02, 2012:First, causes should not be separated. Any and all the reasons in the same box are always to be linked together (exceptions can be made for reasons of private computer circuits). Let me see if you understand what you're trying to do. Two switches to turn on light (A) and two switches to turn on light (B). The power comes from the valve panel in the box with the first switch, (call it 1A). The same power will then go to switch (1B). From that point, the wires are the same for each control circuit. I'm assuming here that one light is to be wired as in the #3 chart. The other light, with its two own keys is also wired as in the #3 chart. If this is the case, then the power in the wire (black), the strength in neutral (white) and the ground (naked or green) must go to each of the first two keys, one for each light. Simply run the two rope between these two keys, paste on the power in the cable, and handle each set of independent keys. Let me know if this answers your question. If not, let me know either with another comment here or with an email (contact information near the top right, under my profile information). These things are difficult to answer with limited information and with just a written word, We can solve it. Bradage on January 02, 2012: Do you have any suggestions for wire 2 3 separate way switch devices (switch switch-light) from the same power source? I've gone that up and disconnected the neutrals in the second switch but still can't get the power to turn off. Do I need to separate the land too? Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on December 07, 2011: It's really hard to diagnose from a distance, but the next power in the second switch will always come in (when the first switch has the first power cable) on the traveler. You must have two wires marked by one traveler as common (which will not go hot without that second wired switch). If one T sign never goes hot, I would doubt that it is a subscriber, not a traveler. You can use volt meter, or offline voltage detector to track wires. Make sure that the wires are crowned and safe in the second box and run the power. Flipping the switch first should give you two wires that go hot, then cold when the switch is flipped - these are travelers in the second switch. From your description, which leaves two wires, connect one of them to any traveler and turn this traveler hot, but if the light running this wire is then the joint and the fourth wire should simply be crowned with wire nut. However, it is possible that previous owners wired in the second switch that did not work properly. If you use a wire scheme #3 above, and use only two rope wire, the switches may work, but not properly. Is this probably what happened?r on December 06, 2011: Our oldest house had 3 switch between the road to the connected fanlights. Power comes in switch #1 and if we only use the switch #1 to the fan/lights that work. . . . But we're trying to add the switch #2 back in. We had a wire marked as T - the traveler but we can't get the switch #2 to work again - we can't seem to get power for it. There is no modern 3 wire used, two separate double wires were originally used. Can you go from switching power #1 to switch #2? Would we be better off running a new wire 3 to switch #2 or can we try to get it to work again as it is? Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on November 14, 2011: It's actually pretty simple, isn't it? All those wires and colors often on 3 way light switch looks confusing but once you understand what's actually going on it's not too bad. Glad you found it helpful, thanks for the comment. It's always good to hear that I was able to help out.rocco on November 14, 2011: Thank you very much, for multiple ways. I now have a better understanding of the terminology and wiring methodDan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on September 11, 2011:Good. It is certainly tempting to save some time and effort by cutting corners, but this is not the right place. It's just too serious, now and in future.wade on September 11, 2011:Thanks for I wouldn't feel good about doing it that way. But he had turned the wire and had his walls up to add him to his room I thought I might be able to save him time from a setback. Again, thanks, I see it is not worth the risk. Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on Sep 09, 2011:Yes, in more than one. Without land there is a potential risk of shock. You will be unable to take advantage of the legally required ground screw on the switch. It is not legal to do what you are proposing and any future problems (a house probably burning) that can follow that the wires will lead to liability to whoever did it. In many states it is illegal to sell a house with known shortcomings like this without notifying the buyer, at which point the sale probably won't go through. In short, don't do it. As an electrician I won't do it, and if his boss orders him he will refuse. It is not worth it. Good luck with your project.wade on September 07, 2011:im helping a friend with wires 3 ways, has already ran 2 wire / with ground to keys. I ask for trouble if we skip the ground? Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on September 07, 2011: Thank you both for commenting. It helps to find information useful.imamsaleb on September 07, 2011: When we look at connections to learn to simplify thanks to uManna in the wild of Australia on March 06, 2011:This is useful. Thanks Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on January 25, 2011: Thanks for comment - I hope you find use for information.whitton on January 25, 2011:Thank you for this very informative Hub.Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on November 29, 2010:Thank you, both on ping and s compliment.tamron on November 29, 2010:1 Hey pinged! Well done and a well-written electric article! Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on November 17, 2010: That's good to hear. Thanks for the comment - I appreciate it when someone lets me know I helped them. Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on October 27, 2010: Thank you. I can't help but hope that someone will find it useful in wire 3 way switch.stars4399 from Louisiana, Magnolia and Swan State. October 27, 2010: Great information. GBYDan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on October 18, 2010: You're absolutely right that it can be very frustrating. I once tried trouble shooting a friend's work and he had installed method 4 instead of 3 method (which is possible and will work) but it was wired wrong. Looked right if you do not notice screw 4, but will not work properly. Nearly 2 hours of tearing all the keys and 4 lights can be a little away before you notice his mistake! Very frustrating!dgcire from USA on October 18, 2010: This is great! Very common problem and link 3/way keys up The method leads to some interesting and often frustrating experiences. Dan Harmon (author) of Boise, Idaho on October 18, 2010: Thank you for the compliment. Wire 3 road switch is just enough different that a lot of people have a problem with it. I hope that the charts and explanations will make it understandable for those who have even a little experience there. At least I found your problem, but there wasn't anything else. Many end up hiring an electrician to a 5-minute job! Dallas W. Thompson of Bakersfield, California on October 18, 2010: As a licensed California contractor, I thought I knew the basic wiring. I bought what I thought was a triple switch. Imagine my frustration after checking my wires three times. I checked the triple switch to determine that it was a normal single pole, to go out in two directions switch... Great information for those who understand the concept of wiring... Wire...

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