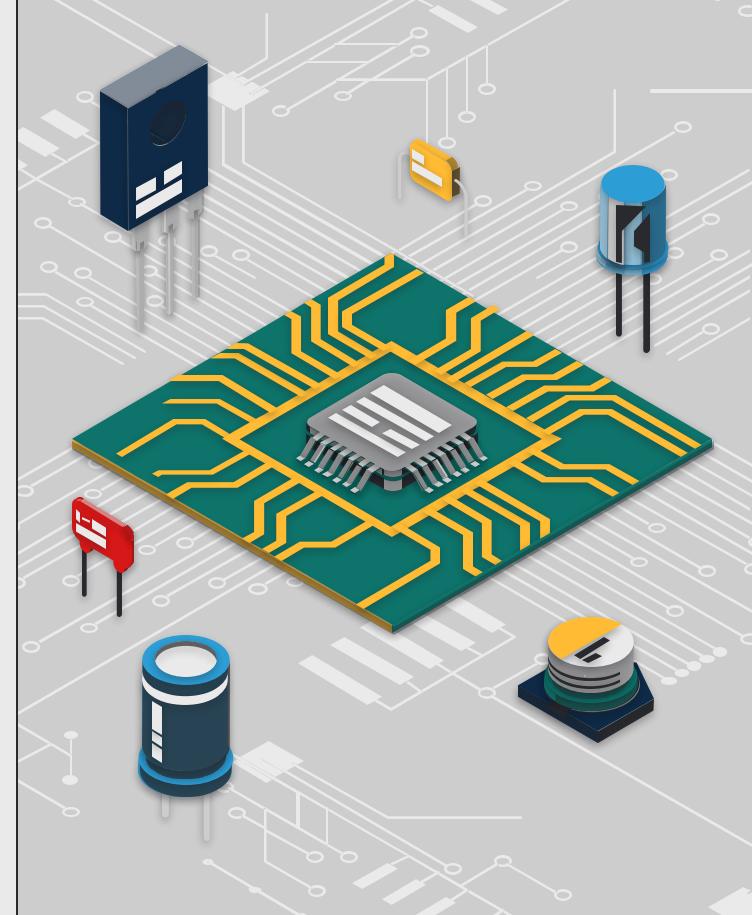


# UCI FSAE EV: The Latchboard

Luv Kumar



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How can the latchboard be improved?



01

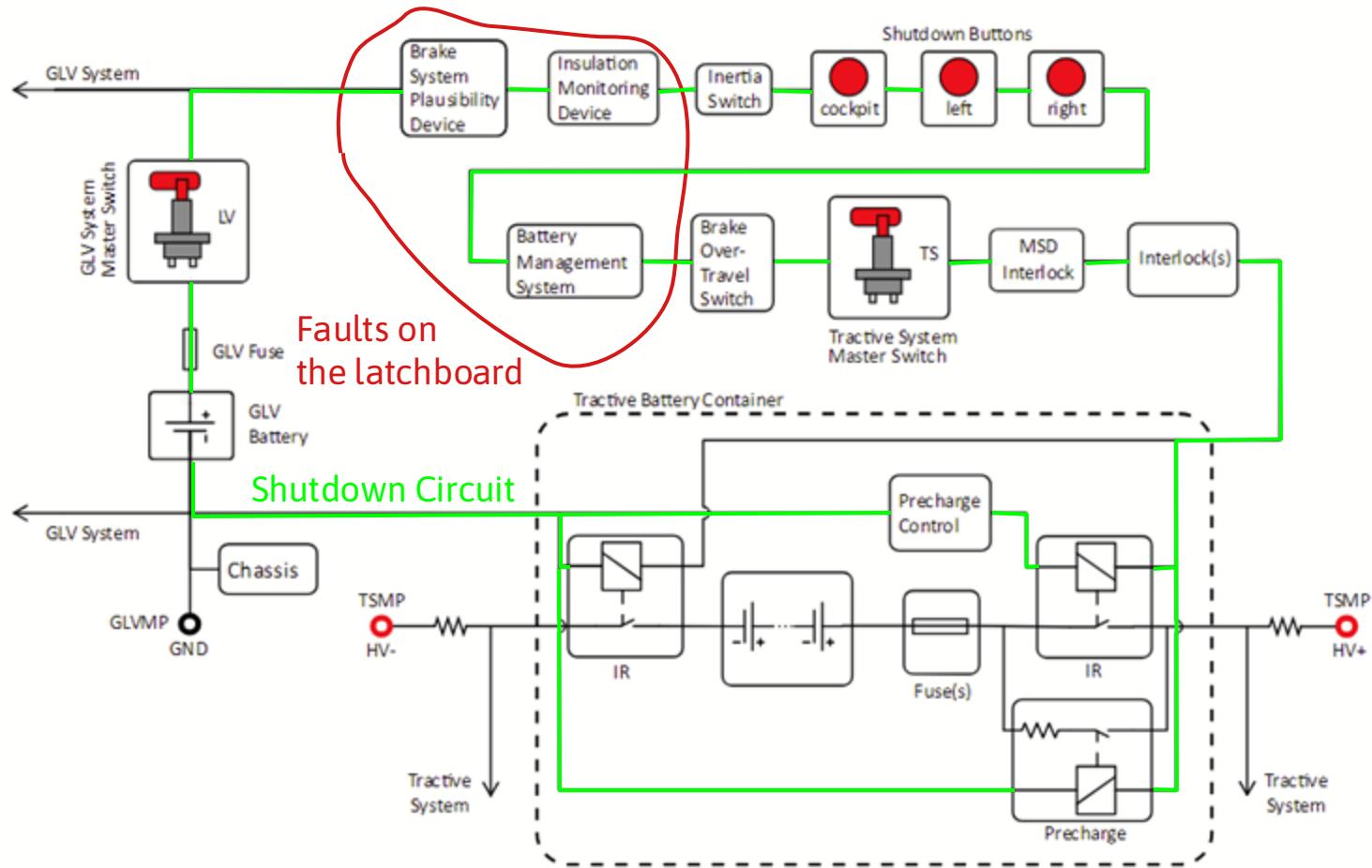
# Purpose

What does the latchboard do?



# Latchboard Overview

- ❖ Shutdown Circuit
  - Circuit to shut down the Tractive System
    - When it is broken, Isolation Relays open and Tractive System shuts off
- ❖ Latchboard is part of Shutdown Circuit
- ❖ Shutdown Circuit goes through relays on the latchboard
- ❖ When a fault occurs, the respective relay opens and the Shutdown Circuit opens
- ❖ Latchboard has switches to reset relays and close Shutdown Circuit again



# Latchboard in the Rules

EV.7.2.3 When the BMS, IMD or BSPD Open the Shutdown Circuit:

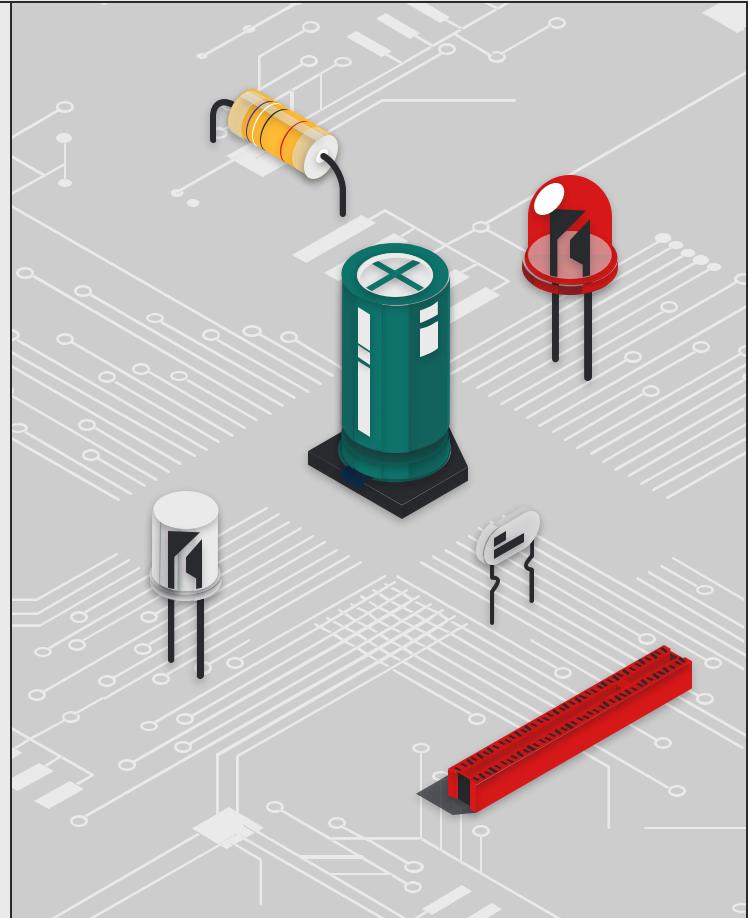
- a. The Tractive System must stay disabled until manually reset
- b. The Tractive System must be reset only by manual action of a person directly at the vehicle
- c. The driver must not be able to reactivate the Tractive System from inside the vehicle
- d. Operation of the Shutdown Buttons or TSMS must not let the Shutdown Circuit Close

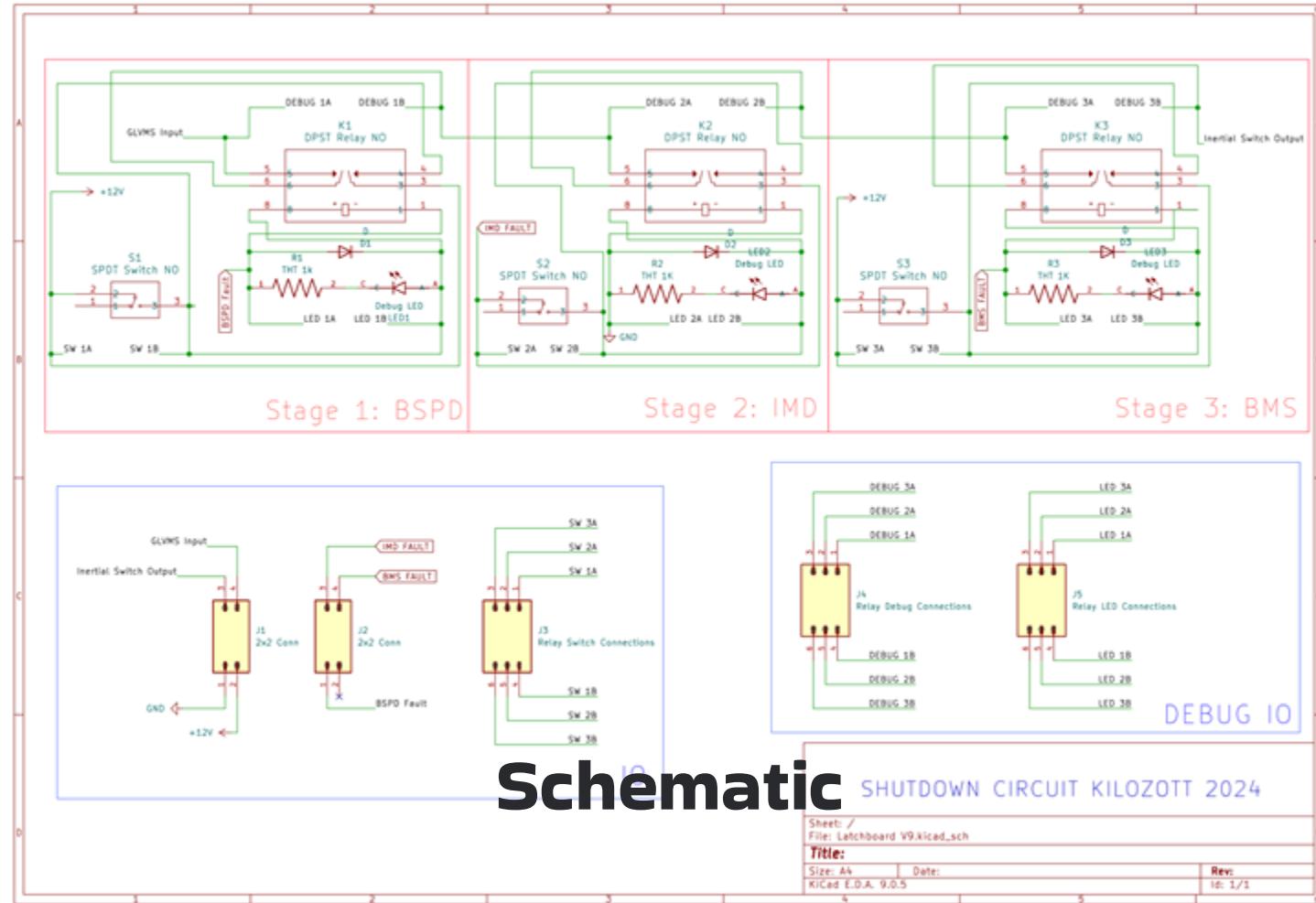
- ❖ Latchboard has circuits to keep relays open when BMS, IMD, or BSPD faults trigger, as well as switches that can be used to reset the relays to make them close again

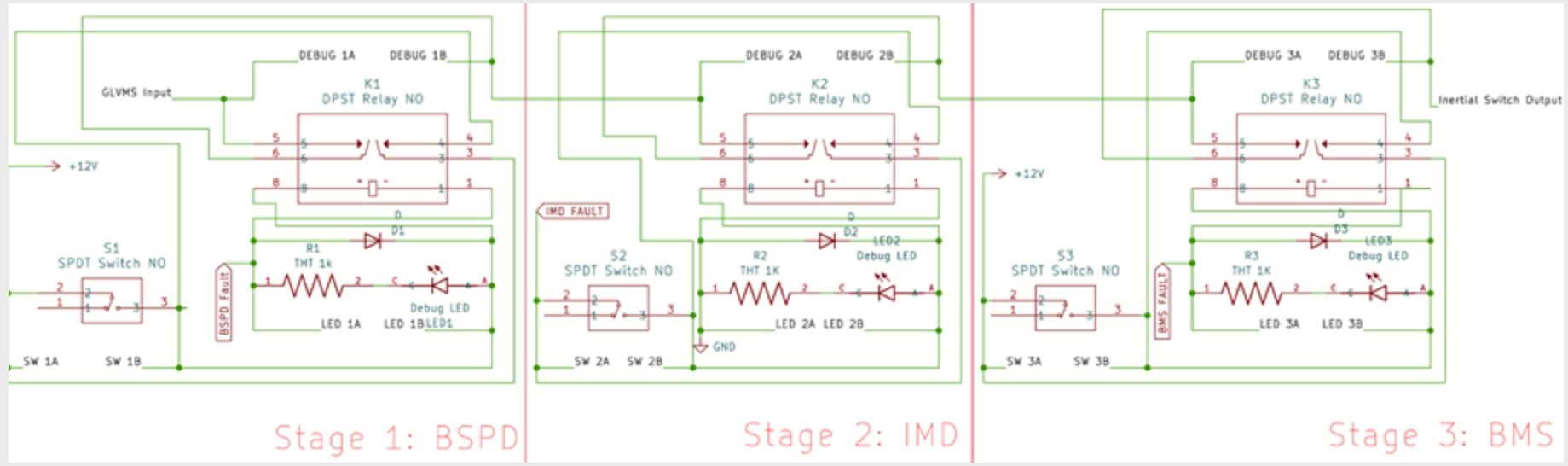
02

# Schematic

How the latchboard do what it does?



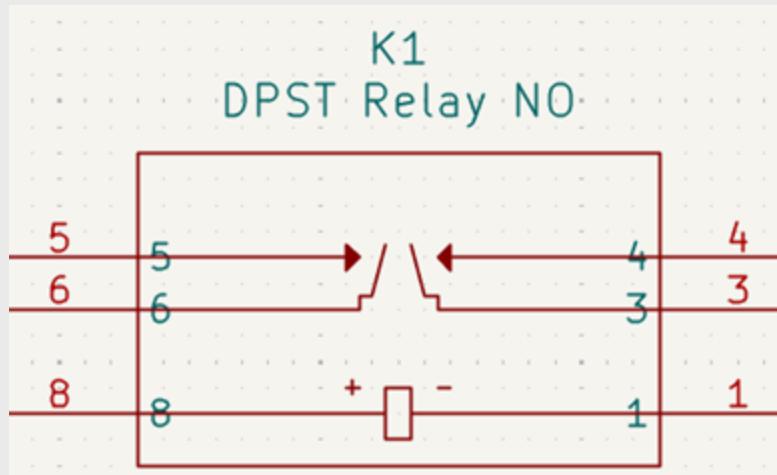




# Schematic

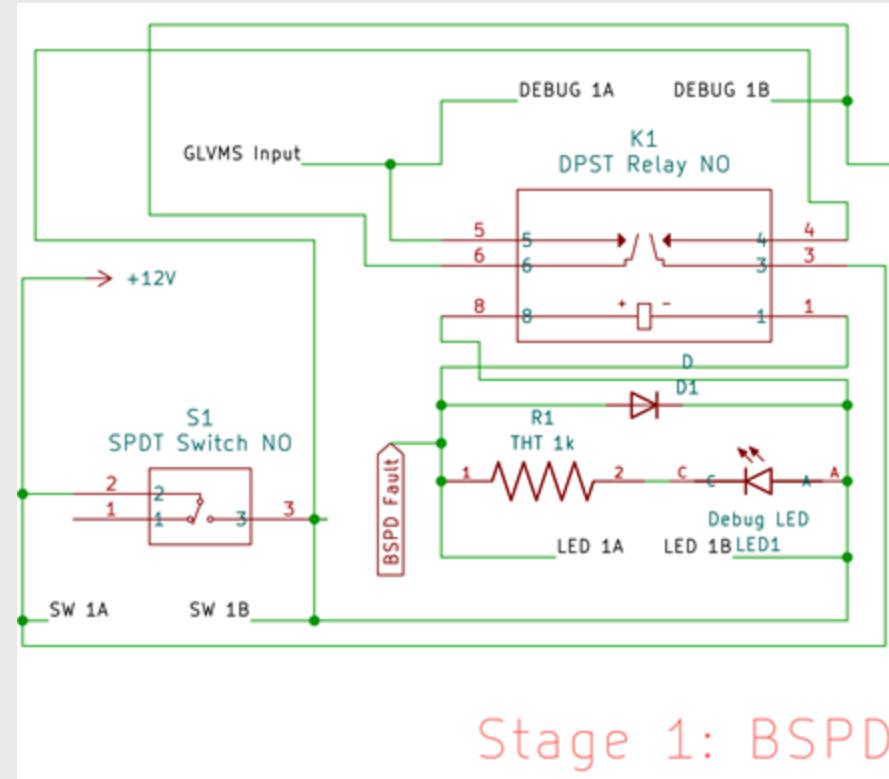
# About Relays

- ❖ Electromechanical switches
- ❖ Function with magnetics basically
- ❖ When current flows from pin 8 to pin 1, a coil turns on and becomes an electromagnet, pulling contacts and closing pins 5-6 and 3-4
- ❖ Other way around if normally closed
- ❖ Typically have diode in parallel so that the voltage spike when it turns off gets absorbed and doesn't damage anything else
  - Flyback diode
- ❖ **TL;DR: When current flows from pin 8 to pin 1, pins 3-4 and 5-6 connected here**



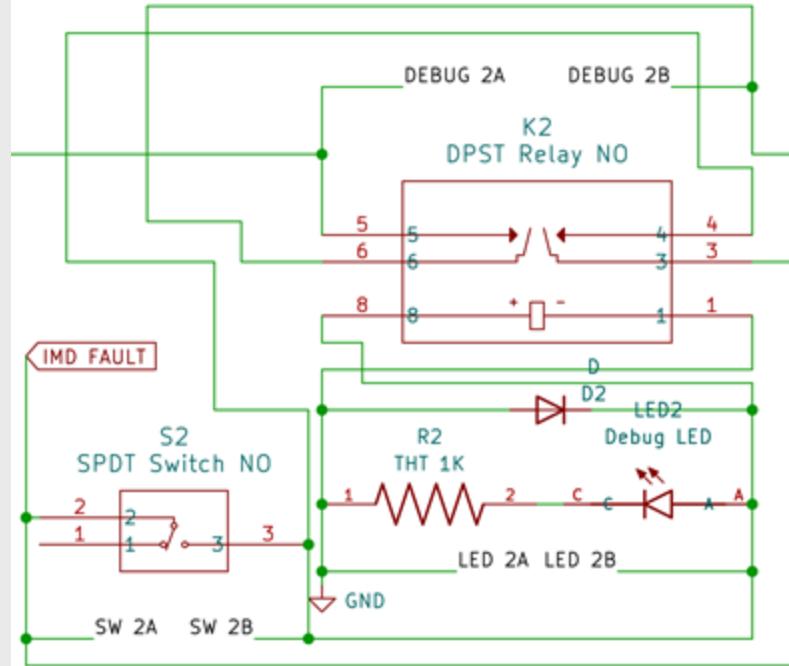
# Stage 1: BSPD

- ❖ BSPD Fault: Ground normally, floating when there's a fault
- ❖ When relay is closed, +12V flows through pins 3-4, then back around to BSPD Fault (Ground) to power the relay and keep it closed
- ❖ Pins 5-6 carry Shutdown Circuit onward to next stage of Latchboard



# Stage 2: IMD

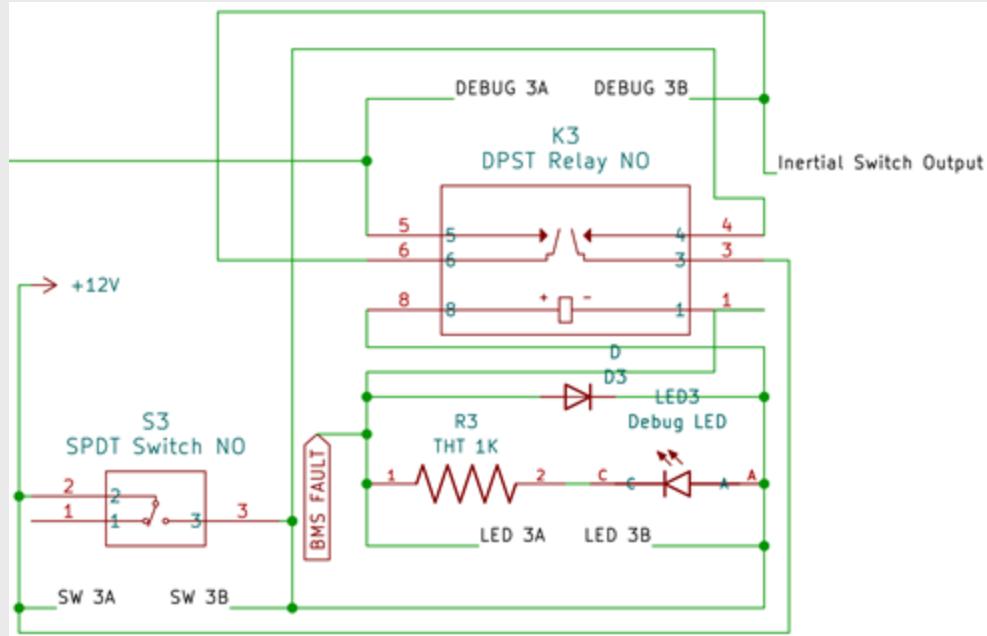
- ❖ IMD Fault: +12V normally, Ground when fault
- ❖ Same deal as Stage 1, but now IMD Fault is going through pins 3-4 and powering the relay



Stage 2: IMD

# Stage 3: BMS

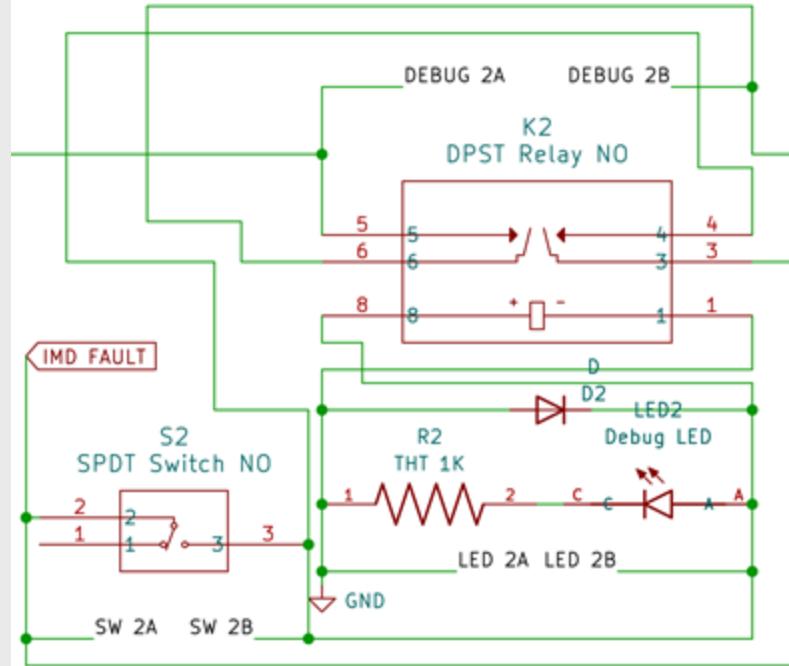
- ❖ BMS Fault: Ground normally, floating when fault
- ❖ The exact same idea as Stage 1 with the BSPD since both faults are open drain



Stage 3: BMS

# Resetting a Relay

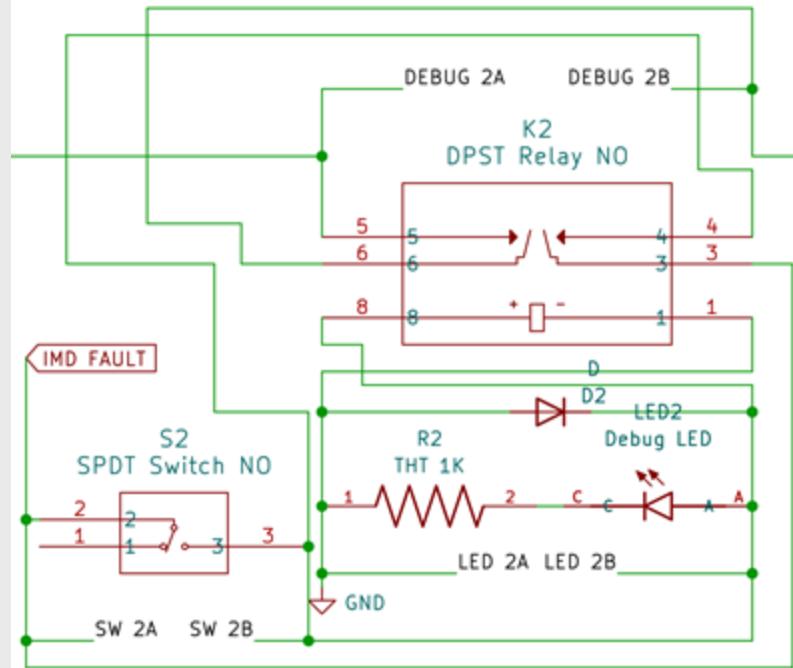
- ❖ Example: IMD Fault
- ❖ When the IMD has a fault, IMD Fault becomes grounded, and so the relay is no longer powered
- ❖ Once fault is cleared, switch on latchboard or GLVMP enclosure can be used to reset the relay
- ❖ Bypasses the relay temporarily to power it on, then power starts flowing through the relay again



Stage 2: IMD

# Debug LEDs

- ❖ Example: IMD Fault
  - ❖ Debug LEDs present on Latchboard PCB
  - ❖ When power is flowing normally, they get powered
  - ❖ Fault interrupts power and LEDs turn off



## Stage 2: IMD

# Example Video

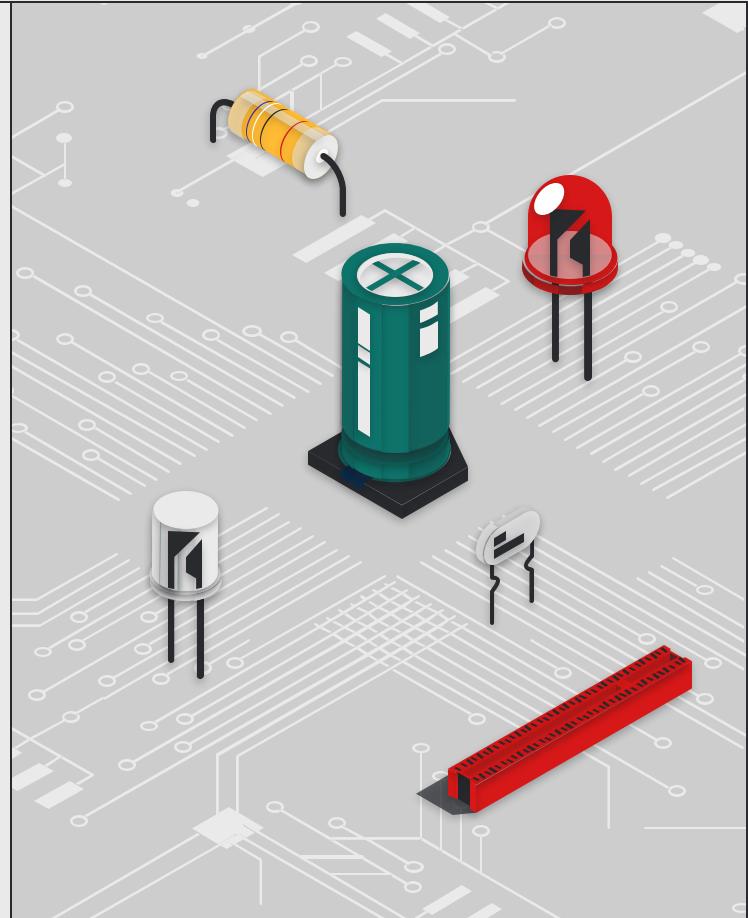
Latchboard Video Demo.MOV

(didn't want to embed it through Google Drive b/c then the resolution tanks)

# 03

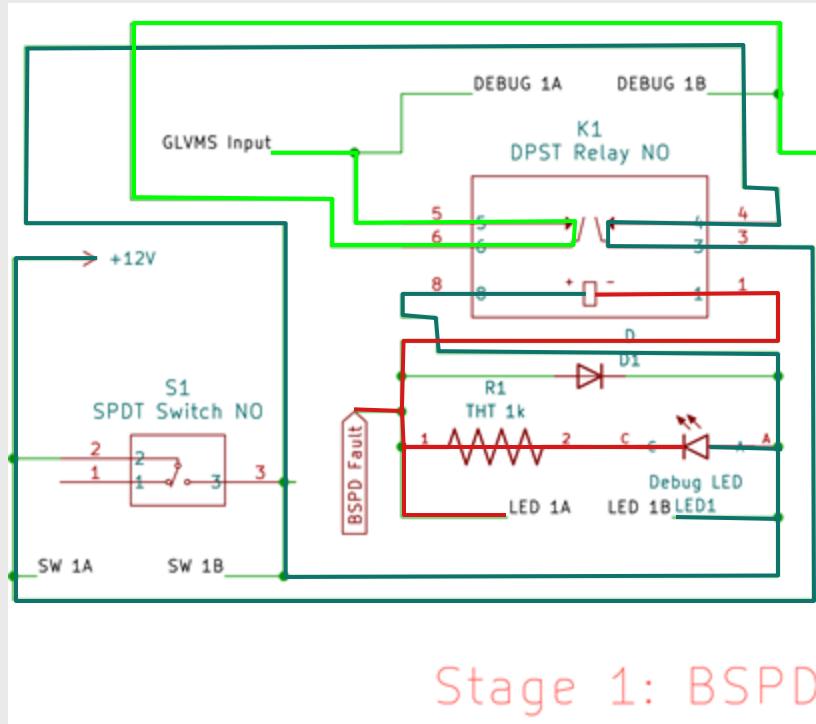
# Scenarios

What does the latchboard do in every scenario?



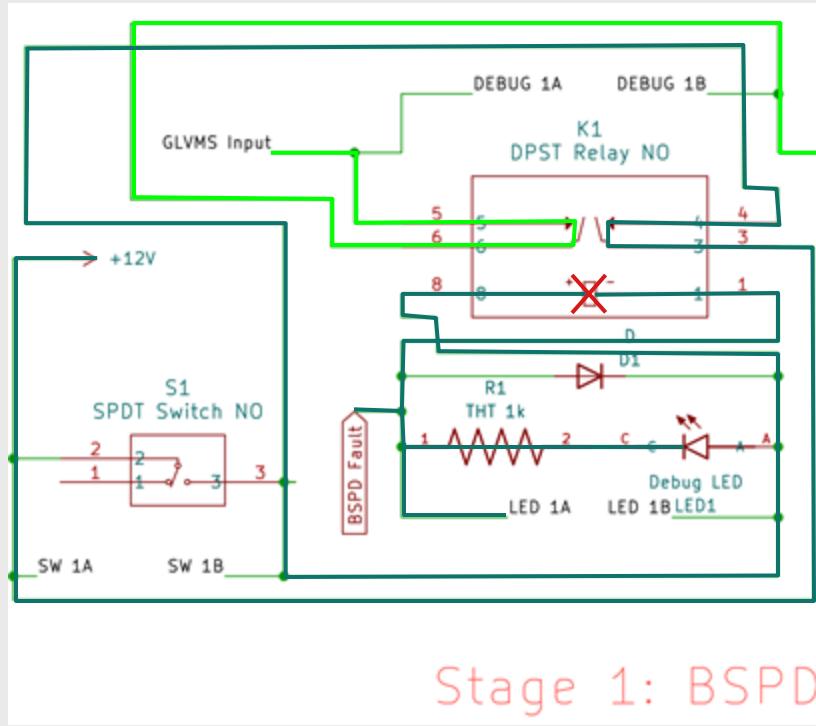
# Scenario 1.1: BSPD/BMS Working Normally

- ❖ BSPD Fault: Ground normally
- ❖ Relay already working, so +12V is going through pins 3-4
- ❖ Shutdown Circuit connected through pins 5 and 6
- ❖ Flows through the relay to BSPD Fault since the latter is grounded
- ❖ Debug LEDs also on and show that BSPD is currently functioning normally
- ❖ BMS works the exact same



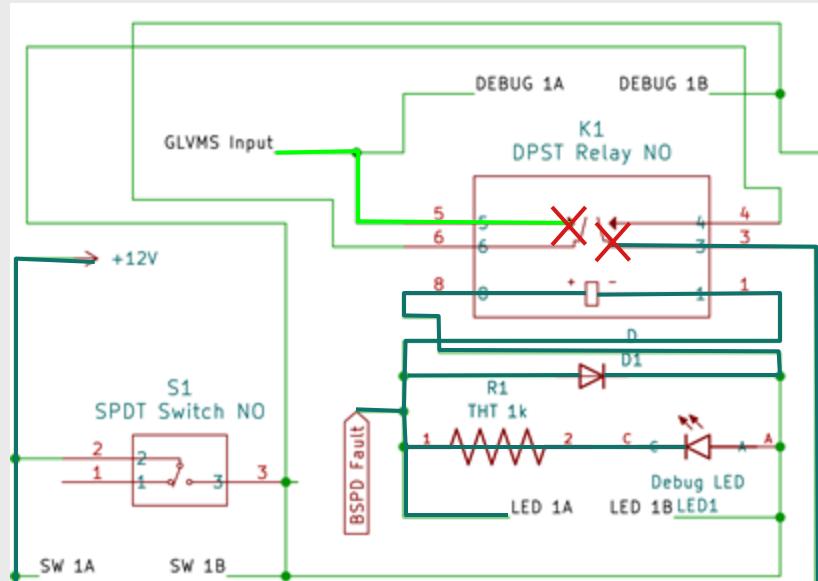
# Scenario 1.2: BSPD Fault

- ❖ BSPD Fault: Floating when there's a fault
- ❖ +12V runs into floating fault and pulls it up → evens out across the relay, so current stops flowing and relay opens



# Scenario 1.2: BSPD Fault

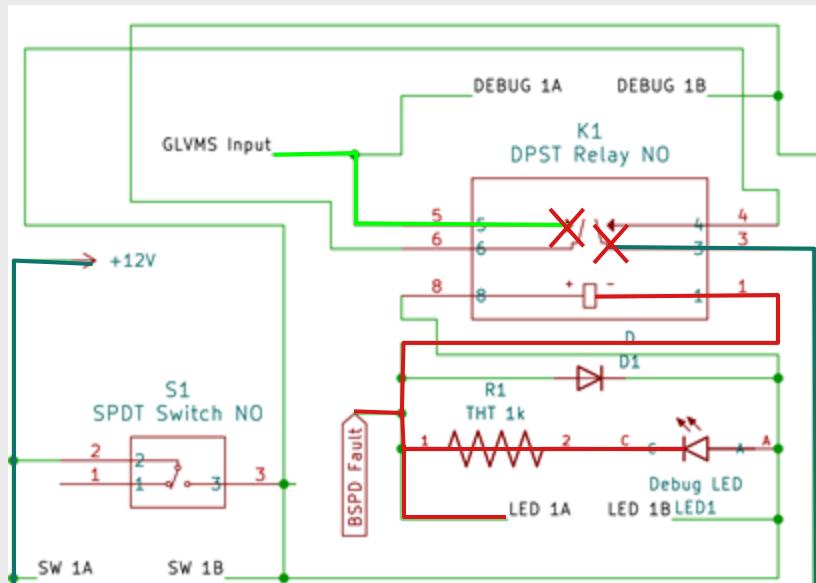
- ❖ BSPD Fault: Floating when there's a fault
- ❖ +12V runs into floating fault and pulls it up → evens out across the relay, so current stops flowing and relay opens
- ❖ Flyback from coil wants to keep flowing and goes through diode



Stage 1: BSPD

## **Scenario 1.3: BSPD Fault Reset**

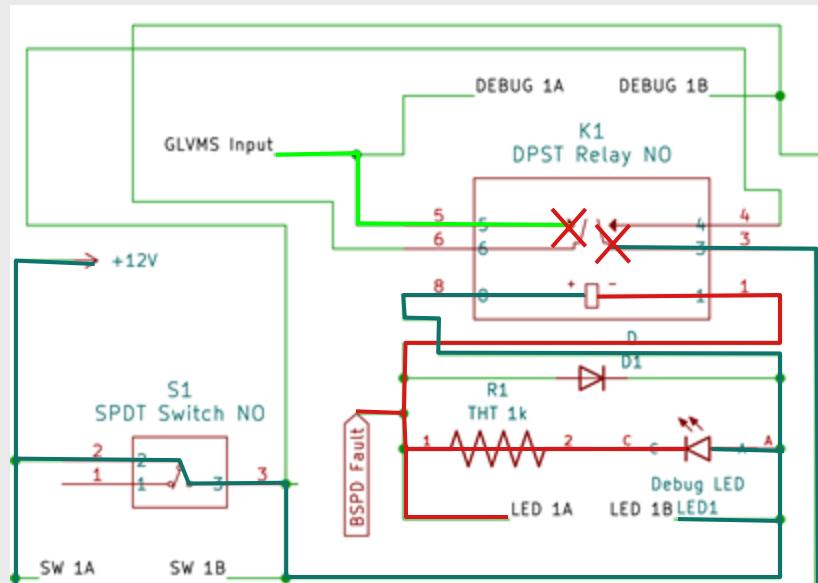
- ❖ Fault fixed and BSPD Fault goes back to being ground



## Stage 1: BSPD

## **Scenario 1.3: BSPD Fault Reset**

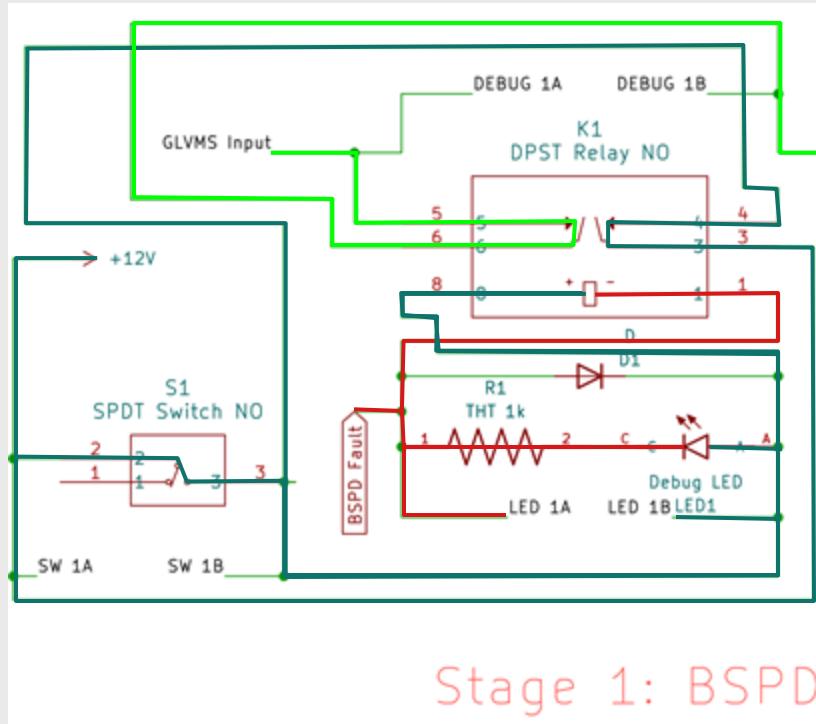
- ❖ Switch is activated and contacts close, so +12V can flow through and power the relay



## Stage 1: BSPD

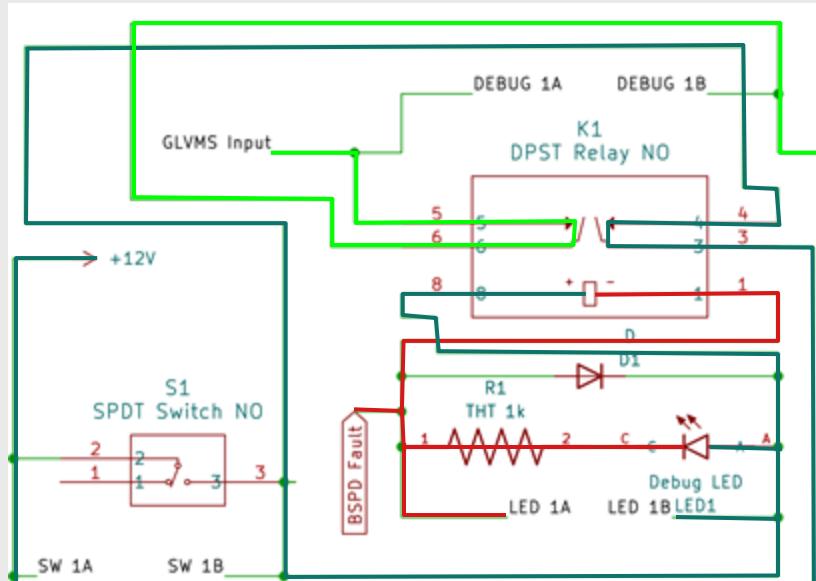
# Scenario 1.3: BSPD Fault Reset

- ❖ Switch is activated and contacts close, so +12V can flow through and power the relay
- ❖ Shutdown circuit and relay power can flow through the relay again



## **Scenario 1.3: BSPD Fault Reset**

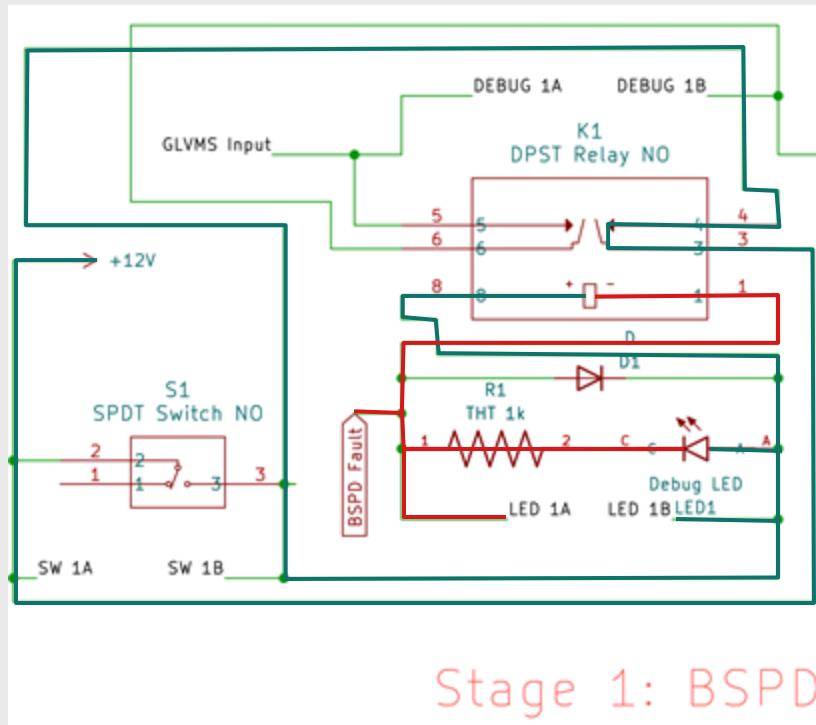
- ❖ Switch is activated and contacts close, so +12V can flow through and power the relay
  - ❖ Shutdown circuit and relay power can flow through the relay again
  - ❖ Switch toggled off again
  - ❖ Stage 1 of Latchboard returns to normal function



## Stage 1: BSPD

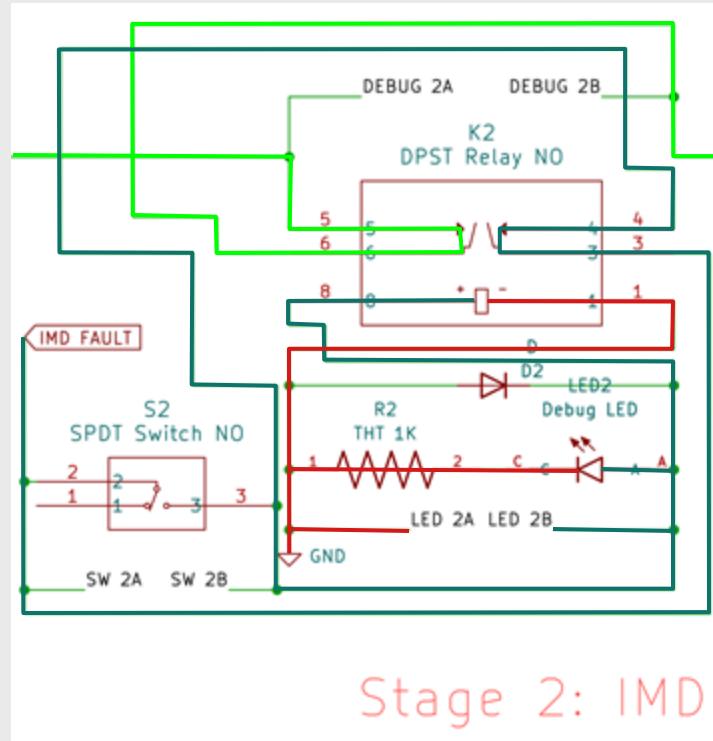
## **Scenario 1.4: Fault Somewhere Else**

- ❖ Shutdown Circuit disconnected and stops flowing
  - ❖ Everything else remains functional so that Shutdown Circuit can return to normal once whatever disconnected is fixed/put back
  - ❖ Whether or not it's still energized depends on location of the fault/ disconnect



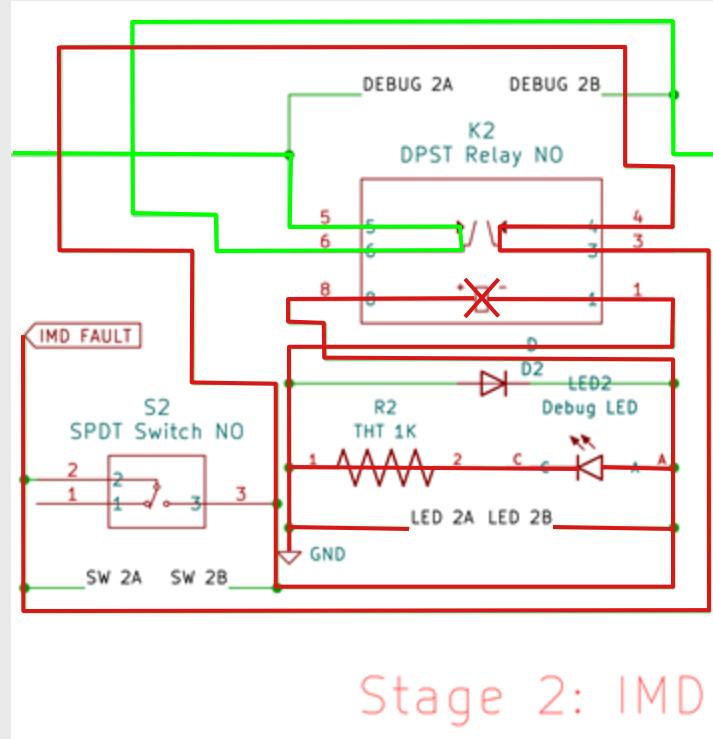
# **IMD Scenario 2.1: Normal**

- ❖ IMD Fault: +12V normally
  - ❖ Going through the relay to power the relay
  - ❖ Shutdown circuit stays connected



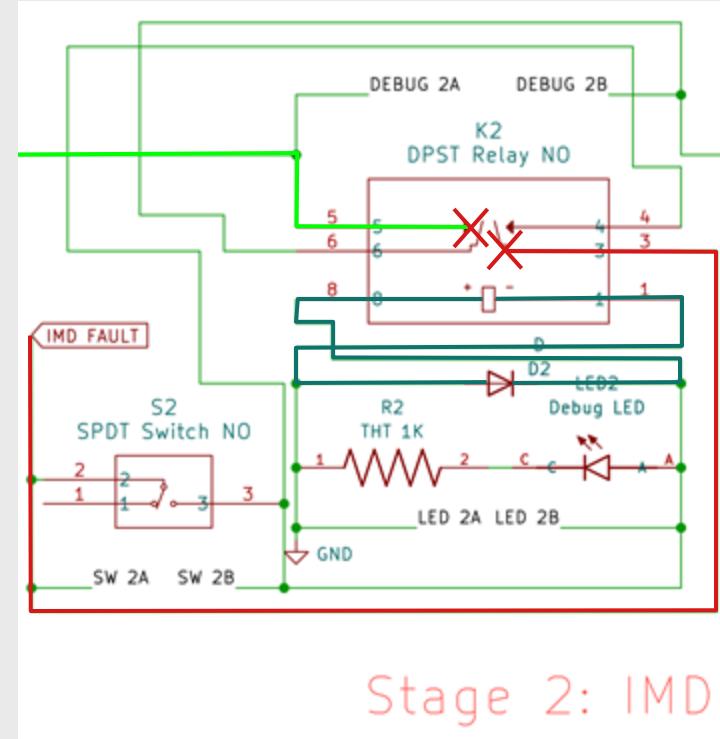
# IMD Scenario 2.2: Fault

- ❖ IMD Fault goes to ground when there's a fault
- ❖ No current flowing through relay



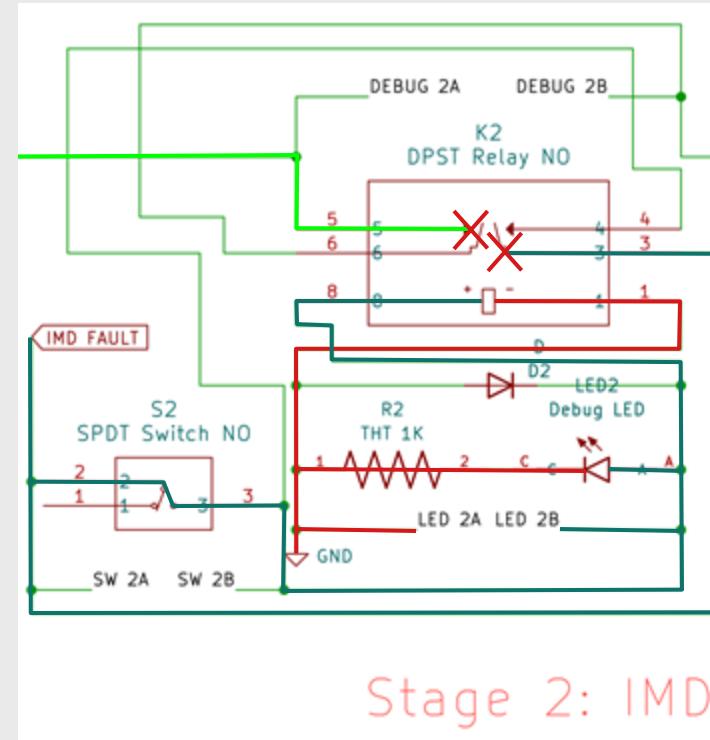
# IMD Scenario 2.2: Fault

- ❖ IMD Fault goes to ground when there's a fault
- ❖ No current flowing through relay
- ❖ Shutdown circuit is broken
- ❖ Flyback voltage absorbed by flyback diode



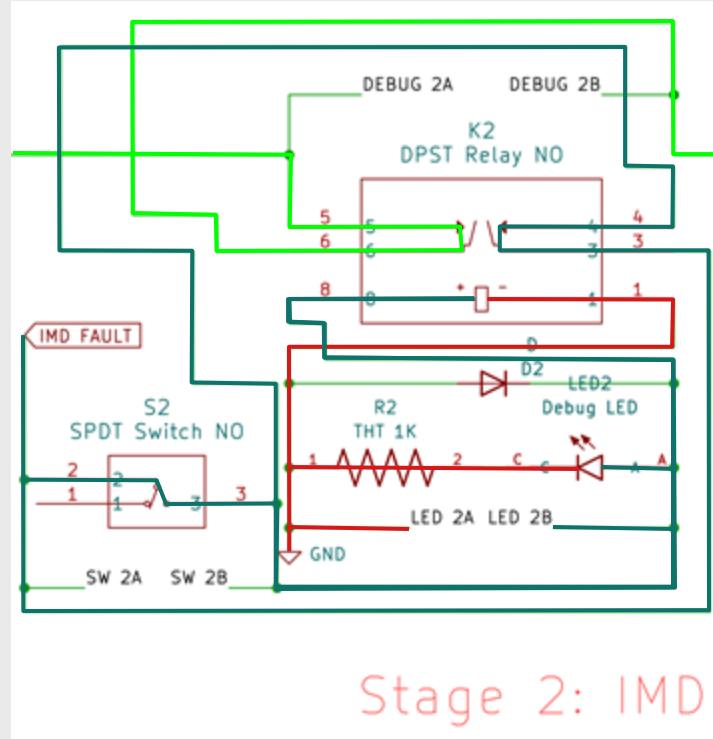
# **IMD Scenario 2.3: Reset**

- ❖ Switch toggled so IMD Fault can bypass the relay to power the relay



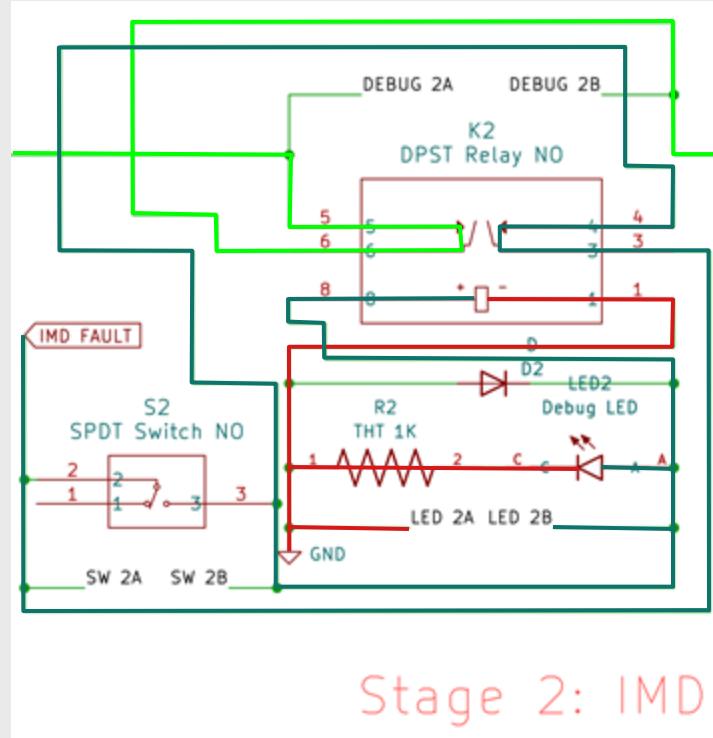
# IMD Scenario 2.3: Reset

- ❖ Switch toggled so IMD Fault can bypass the relay to power the relay
- ❖ Shutdown circuit is connected again



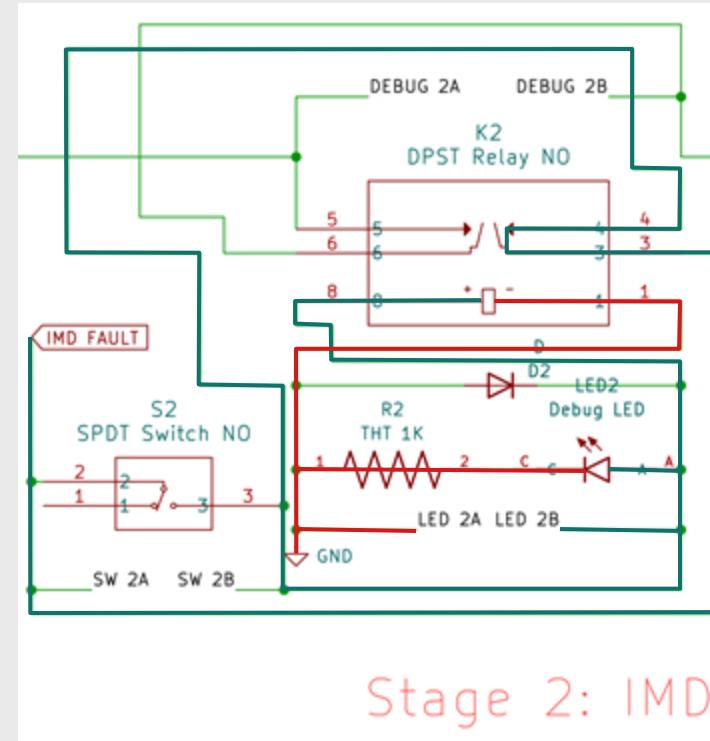
# IMD Scenario 2.3: Reset

- ❖ Switch toggled so IMD Fault can bypass the relay to power the relay
- ❖ Shutdown circuit is connected again
- ❖ Switch toggled off, Stage 2 of Latchboard back to running as normal



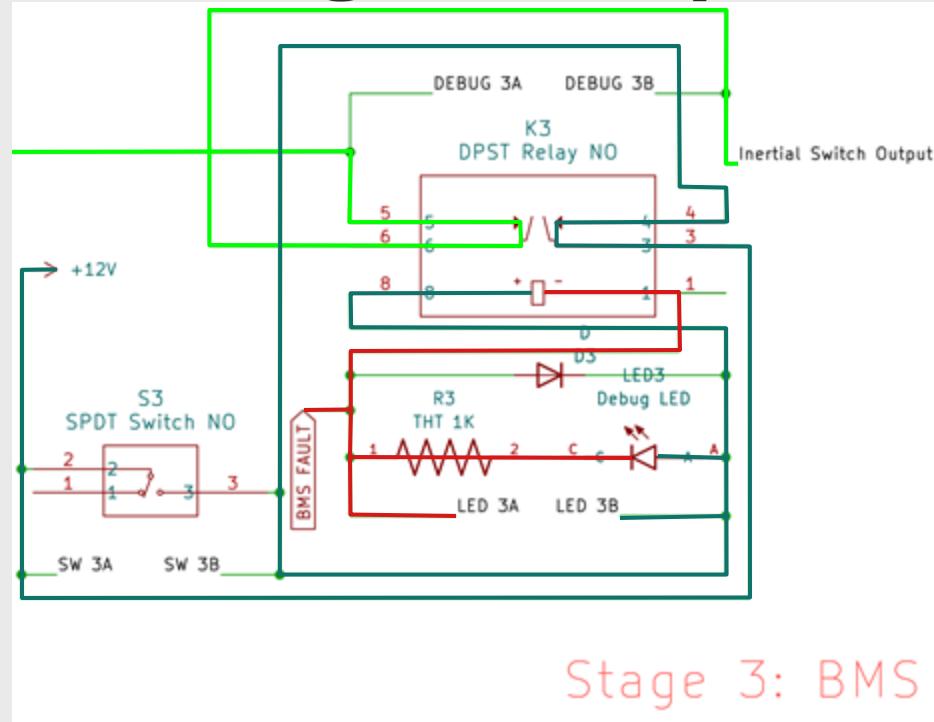
# IMD Scenario 2.4: Fault Somewhere Else

- ❖ Shutdown Circuit stops flowing
- ❖ Everything else remains functional so that Shutdown Circuit can return to normal once whatever disconnected is fixed/put back
- ❖ Whether or not it's still energized depends on location of the fault/ Disconnect
- ❖ You get the picture...



# Scenario 3.1: BMS Working Normally

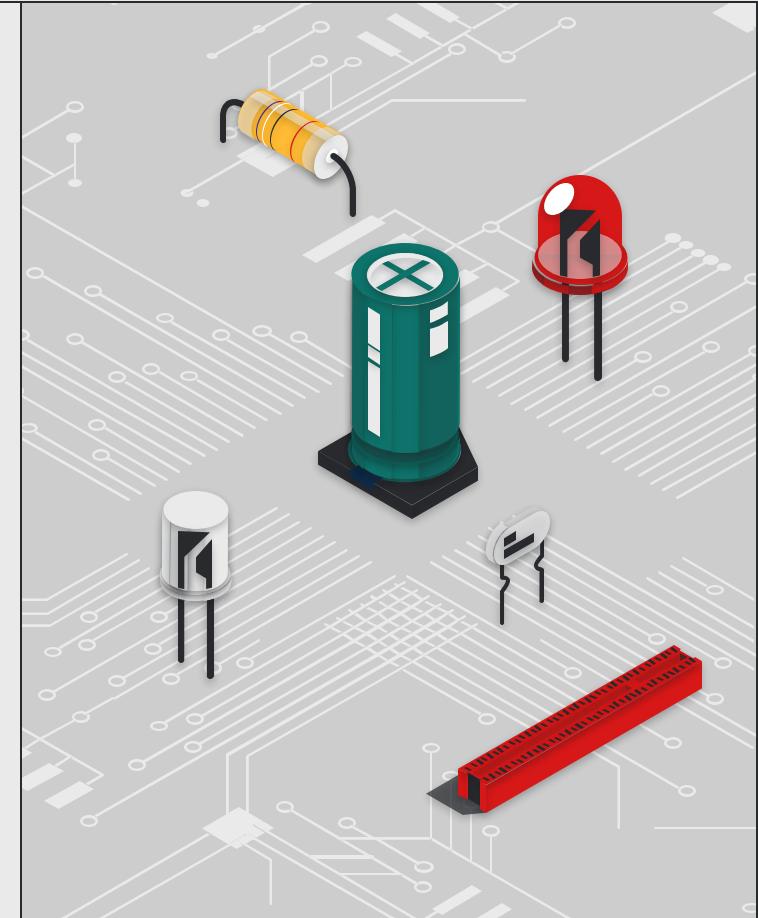
- ❖ Exact same as BSPD



# 04

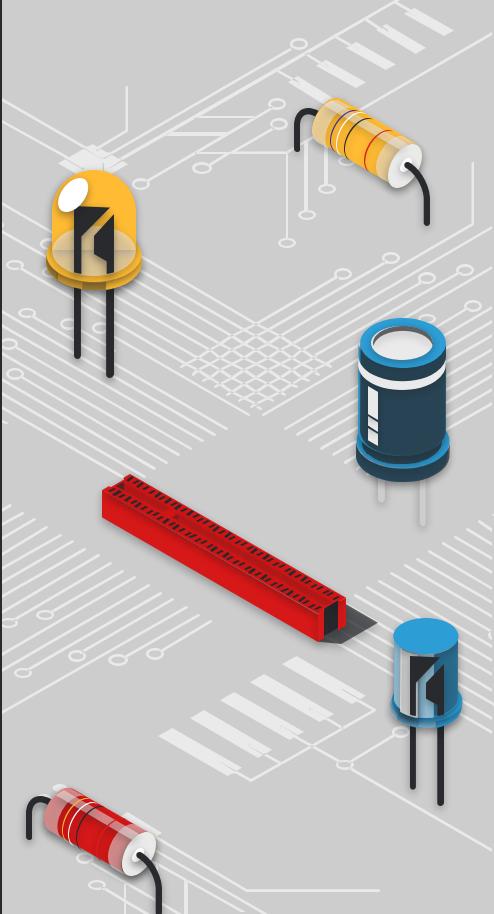
# Improvements

How can the latchboard be improved?



# Potential Improvements

- ❖ I have no clue
- ❖ This seems relatively simple already as far as complexity is concerned?
- ❖ Can transistors be used instead of relays?
  - I have been told they're faster, but not sure how they can be used in this case to replace a DPST relay?
  - No, EV 7.1.3 says "they must be Normally Open," i.e. relay or contactor, not transistor
- ❖ Do we need three relays?
  - Could we do an AND-gate setup and have the output drive a single relay?
  - No because EV 7.1.4 wants "completely independent circuits"
- ❖ **TL;DR: idk it seems good to me**



# Thanks!

Do you have any questions?

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